Dudley
CHRONICLE
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WORST FOR DRUG ABUSE DEATHS

Report by Jamie Brassington

FORTY people have died as a result of drug abuse in Dudley in the last three years – making it the worst borough in the Black Country for drug-related deaths.

The NHS figures for 2013 to 2015 saw the borough, which has a population of around 312,000, as the worst in the region for drug fatalities..

Next worse was Walsall, where 31 died as a result of drug abuse. It was 26 in Wolverhampton, 18 in Sandwell and five in neighbouring South Staffordshire.

But despite the shock figure, charity bosses say drug misuse 'is not a widespread problem' in Dudley.

Kerry Trinder, Black Country Services Manager of charity 'Change, Grow, Live'– who deal with drugs, alcohol and social care – said: "Substance misuse is not a widespread problem within the Dudley borough.

"In 2014, there were 1,054 Dudley residents in drug treatment. Our Change, Grow, Live (CGL) Atlantic Recovery Centre has had a huge impact on providing support and guidance to people to recover from drug addiction. Since 2014, the number of service users using opiates has remained stable within the borough."

The Atlantic House Recovery Centre has been run by CGL in Dudley since 2011. It offers substance misuse services, combining recovery models and teaching an ethos of harm reduction,which include medical assistance and psychological support.

Overdose

Kerry Tridnder told of how a change in law had helped tackle the problem of drug users who overdose.

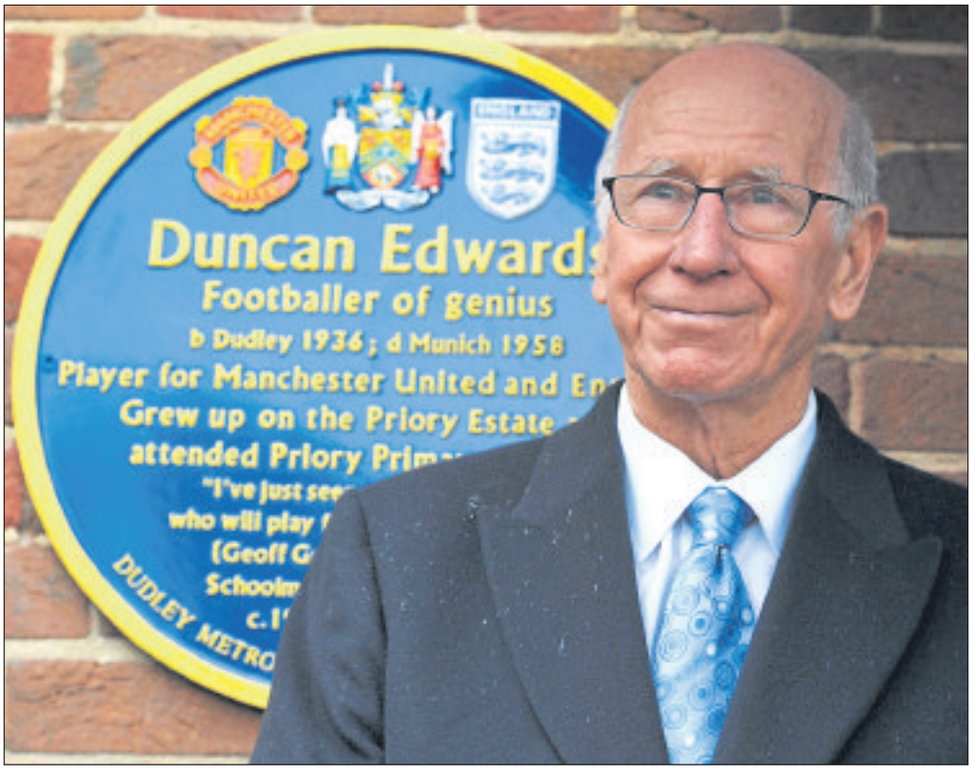
She explained: "One notable advancement has been a change in law, which, in October 2015, allowed the widening of distribution of naloxone. This is a substance which can be administered if a person overdoses on opiates. It works by temporarily blocking the effects of the overdose.

"Our Dudley service has issued each person who accessed the service for opiate misuse, and was identified as being at high risk of dying from a drug overdose, with a naloxone kit. This means should they overdose, they can administer naloxone themselves and potentially save their life."

In total, some 500 kits have been administered and five have been used to save a life this year.

She added: "The key challenge for us is ensuring people know about the support they can receive from us. We have to make sure people feel comfortable coming forward for help. We receive referrals and work in partnership to support people addicted to substances to change their lives."

SIR BOBBY UNVEILS TRIBUTE TO HIS OLD PAL



From one legend to another – Sir Bobby Charlton at the unveiling of a blue plaque in Priory Park, Dudley, to honour Duncan Edwards

SIR Bobby Charlton unveiled a plaque in the Black Country honouring the 'genius' of his close friend, Manchester United and England footballer Duncan Edwards.

The footballing great gave no speech – he left that to the local dignitaries – but he was clearly moved by the occasion, the latest in a series of tributes to the town's talented young player whose career was cut short by tragedy in 1958. During an hour-long reception afterwards, Sir Bobby reminisced with the Edwards' family about the player's generosity – and his Black Country accent.

He delighted those who waited in the rain for him to re-emerge by signing autograph books, programmes and even a girl's jacket.

At a gala evening later on Saturday, Sir Alex Ferguson sent a video message honouring the revered No 6 who died as a result of his injuries in the Munich air disaster of 1958, which killed 23 including eight members of the famous 'Busby Babes' United team.

Twelve members of the player's family were guests of honour at the unveiling, on what would have been Edwards' 80th birthday.

The plaque has been erected in Priory Park where the young Edwards honed his skills during kickabouts with pals. Other memorials include a statue in the town centre, a major road named after the player and and a stained glass window in nearby St Francis's Church. The ceremony took place in pouring rain but still many waited for more than three hours to make sure they had a good view.

Sir Bobby, 78, stepped in after Dudley-born Sam Allardyce pulled out after losing his job as England manager on Tuesday.

● Tribute, more pictures – see page 5

CHARITY

Hospice launching biggest campaign

MARY Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge has been given the green light for the largest fundraising campaign in the charity's history, after receiving confirmation of planning permission for an ambitious £3 million redevelopment.

Hospice fundraisers are tasked with raising £2m of £3m required to completely refurbish the day services Unit in Stourbridge with a view to starting the project in spring 2017.

It is the biggest project undertaken at the hospice since it opened in 1991 and follows a £1m upgrade in 2014.

TRANSPORT

Metro extension to begin next year

LONG-AWAITED plans for a Midland Metro extension line in the Black Country finally look set to go ahead – with council chiefs saying work will start next year.

Sarah Norman, chief executive of Dudley Council, said on social media that the project – a tram line between Wednesbury and Brierley Hill – will start next year.

The project has been backed by MPs, councillors and business leaders

● Opportunity – Page 2

FOOTBALL

Pitch is removed after complaints

FOOTBALL has been banned on part of a playing field in Netherton following complaints from nearby residents.

Homeowners near fields at Dudley Wood Road had become fed-up with balls landing in their gardens and anti-social behaviour. A pitch has been removed with goalposts taken down.

Secretary of Kidderminster and District Football League League Ernie Pyke said: "It's absurd. On one hand they are talking about health and they have taken away a football pitch." Dudley environment boss Councillor Hilary Bills said teams are being offered alternative facilities.

INSIDE

WIN FESTIVE GIFT FAIR TICKETS



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Metro extension is authority's priority

MULTI-MILLION pound plans for a Midland Metro extension link from Wednesbury to Brierley Hill will start next year, according to a council chief.

The scheme, which has been in the pipeline for nearly two decades, finally looks set to get off the ground after gaining Government backing.

West Midlands Combined Authority bosses have said the Metro extension is set to be the first project completed as part of the region's devolution deal.

The extension runs for around seven miles from the existing line at Wednesbury to Great Bridge. It would continue to Horseley Heath, Dudley Port, Dudley town centre, the Waterfront and Merry Hill, before terminating in Brierley Hill town centre.

Business leaders have hailed its potential for the region's economy.

Dudley Council chief executive Sarah Norman tweeted: "Good progress on Brierley Hill Metro reported at @WestMids_CA Board Meeting. Will start in 2017."

Black Country LEP board member Ninder Johal said: "If we're going to continue to attract inward investment then infrastructure is the number one priority. The formation of the West Midlands Combined Authority and the devolved funding it will bring will hopefully bring much improved infrastructure. The extension from Wednesbury to Brierley Hill is an example of that and also ties in with the extra investment into the Merry Hill shopping centre by Intu."

Dudley Council's Conservative group leader Patrick Harley said: "This is something people have been talking about as a pipe dream for about 20 years.

"If we can get this done and people can see the construction, preparation and clearing of sites for tracks as quickly as 12 months' time it will give them confidence in the merits of the combined authority."

● Corbyn backs Metro extension – see page 11

Untidy worry as grass mowing being reduced

CASH-STRAPPED Dudley Council has slashed its budget on grass-cutting services by £50,000.

The move has come in for criticism from councillors who said the move would leave areas untidy.

Council bosses say the authority is facing 'unprecedented times' due to funding cuts from the Government.

But UKIP councillor Paul Brothwood, for Wordsley, said: "I think the green care team have had enough cuts. We can't sustain this system anymore – or there will be trees growing out of traffic lights."

He added: "It has to be recognised that there has been massive cuts from the Conservative Government but there has been excess waste from Dudley Council which is not sustainable.

"I'm getting complaints from residents regarding the maintenance of green spaces. Weeds are not getting sprayed as regularly."

The cuts to grass cutting services will mean grass in public spaces will be mowed less frequently.

Pressure

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "The council has procedures in place to manage and maintain green spaces across the borough. However, as we face unprecedented times with significantly reduced funding from national Government, this adds massive pressure onto our grounds maintenance teams and has impacted on the level of maintenance we are able to carry out.

"Therefore, in a number of areas, where it is appropriate, we have had to reduce levels of maintenance. This includes a £50,000 saving for 2016/17 through a reduced grass cutting service.

"I would stress that wherever possible we will work hard to try to make sure the majority of open spaces are maintained to an appropriate level."

Sedgley's Councillor Michael Evans said: "I think Dudley Council are cutting the budget far too much. We are going to have overgrown spaces and verges, which is not acceptable.

"Overgrown verges can make places look dilapidated. We want to be having a greener and smarter borough."

Cause of fatal fire remains a mystery



The cause of the Netherton house fire that claimed 67-year-old Gillian Howard's life remains unknown

THE cause of a house fire which killed a pensioner remains unknown as an inquest ruled her death was an accident.

Gillian Howard, aged 67, died after the blaze in Spring Road, Netherton, despite the efforts of neighbours to save her. A post-mortem revealed that she died from inhaling smoke.

At an inquest last week Assistant Coroner Angus Smillie reached a conclusion of accidental death.

Firefighters have been unable to establish what sparked the inferno.

Mrs Howard had shared her semi-detached home with her daughter, Nicola, aged 36, her full-time carer. To help after a spinal injury Mrs Howard slept in a downstairs bedroom. She was also being treated for breast cancer.

The fire took hold on May 19. Nicola escaped and was taken to Russells Hall Hospital and treated for smoke inhalation and shock.

The pensioner's body was found at the scene.

Sergeant Richard Narrowmore, from Dudley police, said: "I would like to commend the neighbours in Spring Road who valiantly tried to save this woman with little thought to their own personal safety."

Neighbour Jackie Tanner, 47, gave a harrowing account of the blaze the day after it took place. She said: "I could see her on the floor in the living room. I had to crawl because the smoke and heat was that bad. The next thing I know I got blown out of the house."

Man's jaw was broken by punch in pub attack

A MAN'S jaw was broken when he was punched during a pub attack on New Year's Day.

Christopher Doughty was grabbed from behind at The Clifton in Sedgley and a struggle ensued in which he was dealt the shattering blow by 36-year-old Johnathan Wright.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard Mr Doughty pushed his displaced jaw back into place in the toilets at the pub before being taken to hospital.

In the weeks after the assault the victim's speech was affected and even walking would cause him pain in his jaw.

Wright, of Springfield Grove, Sedgley, was given a six-month jail term, suspended for two years, having previously admitted assault causing grievous bodily harm.

He was also ordered to carry out 150 hours of unpaid work and to pay £3,500 in compensation to Mr Doughty.

Miss Heather Chamberlain, prosecuting, said that Wright and his girlfriend had a 'heated argument' outside the pub after which he marched inside to confront Mr Doughty.

Miss Chamberlain, said: "There was a struggle. The defendant threw a punch which hit Mr Doughty in the face with some force. He went to hospital and was told he had a fracture to his upper jaw."

Mr Julian Harris, defending, said: "Things had been said to him and he reacted badly. There was no excuse for it. He is remorseful and apologetic. He was under the influence of alcohol. It was a single blow."

Masked men stole cash and vodka

MASKED knife-wielding raiders burst into a One Stop shop in Wordsley demanding cash and booze in a robbery. The two men stole £80 and two bottles of vodka.

Police made one arrest less than an hour after the 10pm raid on Thursday after watching CCTV of the raid. A second man was later arrested at an address despite trying to run off from police officers while wearing just his boxer shorts. Both are now in police custody.

The local men, both aged 22, were being questioned.

Chief Inspector Gill Davenport, of Dudley Police, said: "We conducted a speedy investigation with the help of staff at the shop, including a first arrest for one of our new student officers."

Talk on the Earl of Dudley's estate

THE Friends of Dudley Archives and Local History Centre will be finding out about the history of the Earl of Dudley's estate at its meeting in the Tipton Road centre tonight (Thursday) at 7.30pm. Dudley archivist Richard Lewis is the guest speaker. Admission is £2.

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Shoplifter who stuffed clothes into bag is caught

A WOMAN from Dudley was caught by a security guard as she tried to steal £450 worth of clothes from the Primark store at Merry Hill shopping centre.

Emma Gwilliams, of Ashenhurst Road, was spotted acting suspiciously in the budget fashion store and tracked on CCTV.

Gwilliams, aged 37, was told she must carry out 50 hours unpaid work after admitting attempting to steal the clothing. She was given a further 25 hours of unpaid work for breaching a suspended sentence.

Miss Heather Chamberlain, prosecuting, said a security guard at the shop spotted Gwilliams with another woman, a child and two baskets full of clothes. When he next saw her the baskets had gone but she had a large bag which appeared full.

The three were tracked using in-store CCTV and seen placing items into the bag. They were stopped as they tried to leave the shop without paying. Gwilliams told police she wanted the clothing for her children.

Mr Simon Hanns, defending, told Wolverhampton Crown Court: "This was an incredibly stupid act. She has a serious and dangerous problem with alcohol."

The court heard Gwilliams's suspended sentence was imposed after she was convicted of taking her husband's car without his consent.

Judge Mark Eades said shoplifting pushed up prices for everyone else. He added: "You know it is stealing. You were greedy because you tried to steal over £400 worth of goods"

Gwilliams has to pay £340 costs.

Man charged with killing his mother

A BRIERLEY Hill man has appeared in court charged with killing his mother, who died in hospital nearly a month after he allegedly pushed her to the floor on Christmas Eve.

Mark Jennens, aged 39, of Sorrel Walk, Brierley Hill, is facing one count of manslaughter and appeared before magistrates in Walsall last Thursday.

His mother, Hazel Jennens, died in hospital on January 20 after the incident on December 24 last year.

Jennens was bailed to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Thursday, October 27, for a plea and trial preparation hearing.

Library shop to sell off old books

DUDLEY Library is opening a book shop to sell off its old stock. An area on the ground floor of the library in St James's Road is being transformed into Books 2 Go, which needs voluntary staff. Call (01384) 815560.

Sunday shopping visit for Archbishop



The Most Reverend Justin Welby

MORE details have been released of the Archbishop of Canterbury's visit to Dudley this weekend, which will include a trip to the Merry Hill shopping centre.

The Most Reverend Justin Welby will be at the centre on Sunday from 2.30pm. He will arrive at the entrance next to Argos and, along with local church leaders and members, will walk through the centre owned by Intu, stopping to talk to shoppers and workers.

The Archbishop will move through the mall to the atrium outside Marks and Spencer, where he will lead a 'songs of praise' style service and gives a talk. The event will conclude with popular hymn, Amazing Grace.

Pray

Bishop of Dudley, The Rt Rev Graham Usher, said: "I am delighted that the Archbishop of Canterbury will be visiting Intu Merry Hill shopping centre during his time in Dudley and Worcestershire.

"Intu Merry Hill is a major gathering place and contributes significantly to the local economy. Archbishop Justin will be asking shoppers and staff if he can pray with them and he will be sharing how the Christian faith inspires him daily."

The Archbishop of Canterbury is the most senior bishop in the Church of England, and Eton and Cambridge University-educated Mr Welby is the 105th.

He had worked in the oil industry before his ordination and served as a rector in Warwickshire, as Dean of Liverpool and then Bishop of Durham before becoming Archbishop of Canterbury in 2013.

Doorstep robber cuts pensioner with knife

A PENSIONER was held at knife-point and cut on the face during a 'terrifying' robbery at his home in Netherton.

A man knocked on the 70-year-old's door in St Peter's Road and pleaded for cash to take his dog to the vets but when the sob story failed the thug pulled out a knife and pushed it under the man's chin.

He suffered a two-inch cut, that required hospital treatment, as he was shoved backwards into the hallway and threatened.

The thief went on to steal a wallet containing £115 in notes and £8 in loose change from the pensioner's kitchen.

The suspect has been described as of white or Asian appearance, aged 30 to 35 years old, about 5ft 10ins tall and of medium build. He has short black hair and had a black scruffy beard. He spoke with a northern accent, possibly from the Newcastle area. He was wearing a dark blue quilted jacket and black or navy trousers. The robbery happened on Wednesday night.

Detectives have launched an investigation into the robbery and which took place on Wednesday night.

Terrifying

Detective Constable Simon Willmott, of Dudley CID, said: "Thankfully the injury sustained by the victim was not serious but it was a terrifying ordeal for the victim, who has been left shaken by what happened.

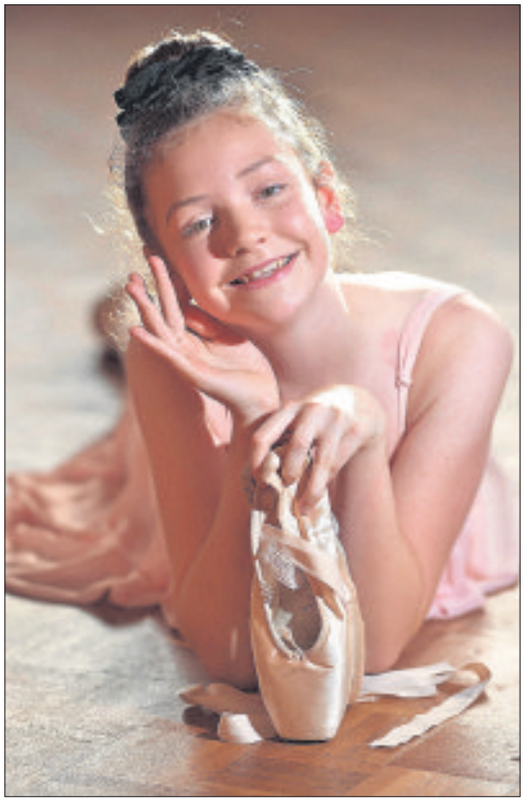
"I would appeal to anyone who was in or around the area on the evening of Wednesday, September 28, and who saw anything suspicious. I am also eager for anyone who thinks they know the identity of the suspect to come forward."

Ward councillors spoke of their shock at hearing the news.

Councillor Qadar Zada, for the Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews ward, said: "It is disgraceful that this has happened to a 70-year-old man in Netherton. It is not a matter of £100, it is a matter of a gentleman who has been threatened in what could be a life changing moment."

Councillor Christine Perks added: "This is appalling. It is terrible someone has got knifed on their own doorstep, it is bad enough worrying it could happen on the street."

Anyone with information should contact DC Willmott on 101.



Dance delight – Amelia Morgan, aged 12, of Wall Heath, will dance with Birmingham Royal Ballet in Cindrella Dreams at the Hippodrome next year

Ballet dream comes true

A YOUNG dancer has seen a dream come true after she was told she can dance with members of the Birmingham Royal Ballet.

Amelia Morgan, who attends the Gwynn School of Dance in Kingswinford, is thrilled after being chosen by the famed company to take part in a production next year.

The 12-year-old from Wall Heath, who attends Summerhill School, has been dancing since she was three.

She is among a select group of young Midlands dancers who will be given intensive training sessions with the prestigious company to take part in the performance Cinderella Dreams at the Birmingham Hippodrome in February.

Proud father Chris, an engineer, said: "Since she was seven she's wanted to perform for the Royal Ballet. We're bursting with pride for her – it's absolutely fantastic. She starts intensive training next month."

Mr Morgan paid tribute to his daughter's dance school boss Olga Gwynn and said that his daughter's dancing talent came from his wife Sharon.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pensioner hurt in travellers incident

A PENSIONER suffered a broken leg after being struck by a traveller's caravan in West Bromwich just hours after a group of 'abhorrent' travellers were ejected from a Kingswinford site.

Residents in Old Meeting Lane confronted travellers who were trying to enter Jessons Playing Fields on Thursday night. Police have confirmed a 67-year-old man sustained a broken leg and was taken to hospital as residents tried to stop the travellers, who damaged a bollard in their effort to access the field. Police are trying to trace the driver involved.

Advice on mental health at a shop

DUDLEY and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust has invited members of the public to visit a pop-up therapy shop in Dudley.

People can find out more about the Dudley Talking Therapy Service at the temporary shop in the Churchill Shopping Centre. The pop-up shop will be open on Monday – World Mental Health Day – between 11am and 2pm. Clinicians and health trainers will on hand to answer questions. The Talking Therapy Service supports those with problems such as anxiety, depression, panic or phobias.

Toy shop chain marks 35 years

TOY shop The Entertainer is celebrating 35 years in business.

Each of its 126 shops, including those at Merry Hill, West Bromwich and Wolverhampton, will be holding in-store activities on Saturday, including competitions, balloons and sticker giveaways. There is a scratch card giveaway with every purchase. Visitors can also enter a competition for the chance to win the entire contents of the 2016 catalogue, worth more than £13,300.

February concert date for X Factor Live Tour

TICKETS go on sale tomorrow (Friday) for The X Factor Live Tour 2017 at Birmingham's Genting Arena on February 24.

Attended by more than three million people, The X Factor Live Tour has been one of the most successful annual arena tours in the UK

Tickets for the Genting Arena date are on general sale from 9am from www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 33 88 222. Tickets are priced from £23.30 to £105.80 plus fee.

Jay's zoo promotion

DUDLEY Zoo's Jay Haywood has been appointed as assistant curator.

The 33 year-old started work at the Castle Hill attraction straight from school at and has worked his way up to his latest promotion.

Jay, from Dudley, said: "It's a great honour for me as I love working here."

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



THE Labour Conference quote of the week? It must be: "The socialism I believe in is everybody working for the same goal," from Jeremy Corbyn who, during 33 years in Parliament, has voted against his own party at least 500 times.

MOST significant moment of Conference came when one speaker said that, if Labour wanted to win a general election, it must attract some former Tory voters. Someone in the audience shouted: "Why? We don't want Tories." Behold, the problem for any political movement which puts high principles above common sense. The Left cannot gain power without mass support, yet some of them would rather reject new supporters than risk pollution from anyone less Left than themselves. Better powerless than impure, eh, comrades?

FOOTBALL, cycling, athletics, cricket. Is there any area of sport that is squeaky-clean? Here's an idea. Let's have an investigatory pause between any team or individual winning any competition and the award of the trophy. About four years should do it.

"I HAVE more roots than Kunta Kinte," said Eva (Catherine Tyldesley) on a trip to Audrey's hair salon in Coronation Street (ITV). Corrie has now been denounced for racism and Ofcom is to investigate. The bizarre part of all this is that Kunta Kinte, star of Alex Haley's book and TV series, did not have roots. He was the root. It was Haley, tracing his lineage back to Africa, who discovered his own roots, all the way back to Kunta Kinte. The Corrie line was not only nonsense but an example of middle-class humour being put into the mouth of a working-class character and no-one in the editing process having the balls to say: "That's a really rubbish line. Cut it."



IF Eva had said: "I have more roots than Alex Haley," it would still have been an unlikely line to hear in a Lancashire hair salon but at least it would have made sense. And I doubt anyone would have complained. It was the uttering of an African name that caused offence (either genuine or feigned).

NOW here's a coincidence. On the very day that an open-air park for nudists was announced in Paris, the Australian state of Victoria declared mooning and streaking to be criminal acts. See? It is entirely possible to report this without using the phrase Down Under. Almost.

THANKS for your emails on the subject of American greetings we can well do without (Mexican wave, high-five, thumb-gripping etc). A reader says: "Don't forget that ridiculous greeting, the fist bump." As if we could.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Big Sam slated as Sir Bobby steps in

DISGRACED Sam Allardyce has been accused of being 'stupid' – as Sir Bobby Charlton stepped in to replace him at a ceremony in memory of football legend Duncan Edwards.

Civic leaders in Allardyce's home town of Dudley have spoken of their anger as the 61-year-old's 67 day tenure in the biggest job in English football came to a sudden end mired in scandal. 'Big Sam' was filmed as part of a national newspaper sting, offering to advise bogus businessmen on how to get around rules on player transfers.

He was discussing with the undercover reporters a possible £400,000 advisory role, just after taking on the England job, reportedly worth £3 million a year.

Dudley South MP Mike Wood said it was disappointing Big Sam's homecoming had been ruined. He said: "Dudley was looking forward to welcoming the England manager back home at the weekend. People were proud when a local man got such an important role in the national game.

"It is very sad that his misjudgement and basic stupidity has cost him the job he has dreamed of his whole career. His reputation has been left in tatters."



Sam Allardyce – apologised to FA

A fitting tribute to the perfect footballer

IT was a day of nostalgia for a golden age of football – and inevitable comparisons with a tarnished present era.

Above all it was a day of pride in a Dudley, England and Manchester United hero whose sporting talent was nurtured in Priory Park where crowds gathered on Saturday to see a plaque unveiled to Duncan Edwards on what would have been his 80th birthday.

Sir Bobby Charlton, who played alongside Edwards at both club and national level, performed the honours. Later former Wolves and Albion players joined guests in a gala at Brierley Hill Civic Hall where a video message from Sir Alex Ferguson was played. The former United boss said he had only seen Edwards play twice, both times in Scotland with the native Glaswegian quipping: "Neither was a good experience for me."

Complete

He continued: "I can only go by what Sir Bobby Charlton says about him, that he was the greatest player he ever played with."

Edwards, described by manager Matt Busby as the most 'complete footballer in Britain – possibly the world', was marked out for greatness after winning consecutive titles with United but died of injuries he sustained in the Munich Air Disaster of 1958 when a plane containing the United team slid off the runway in snowy conditions.

Aged just 21, Edwards had already played 177 games for Manchester United and become the youngest player, at 18, to be capped by England.

Cousin Laurence Brownhill, 73, said: "You always knew when Duncan was coming because you'd hear him kicking a tin can or an old brick. His mother used to tell him to stop ruining his shoes."

Sir Bobby paid tribute to his fellow Busby Babe in the gala dinner programme. He wrote: "To me, Duncan has always been the epitome of football."



Duncan Edwards' relatives at the charity gala night held at Brierley Hill Civic Hall to mark his 80th birthday



Sir Bobby Charlton chats to Duncan's cousin Eva Edwards



Duncan Edwards – best Sir Bobby played alongside

Customers launching campaign to save store

MORE than 100 people have signed a petition calling for the Sainsbury's in Merry Hill to be saved.

The petition was launched in the wake of company bosses announcing the supermarket at the huge shopping centre would close on December 30. In total 121 people had signed the petition by Sunday afternoon.

The supermarket giant has been trading at the centre for almost 17 years and closure will put at risk 193 jobs.

Bosses say that the store was 'underperforming' despite being a fixture at Merry Hill since opening in October 1989.

One shopper from Dudley, writing online, said: "I've grown up with Sainsbury's being an important part of Merry Hill. Save it – for the customers and staff."

A Sainsbury's spokesman said the company would 'look to redeploy people, wherever possible'.

"Like all retailers, we keep our estate under review to ensure our business is operating as efficiently and effectively as possible and to ensure we provide customers with the best possible service. We're now conducting a consultation process with all affected colleagues who we will support through the difficult period ahead."

Caroline Crolley, regional officer at Unite, criticised the company's decision. She said: "I am absolutely astounded. There had been no indication that this was going to happen. We are obviously going to be demanding a meeting with the company."

Marley musical on way to Brum

A NEW musical based on the life of reggae superstar Bob Marley is coming to Birmingham Repertory Theatre.

One Love: The Bob Marley Musical has been written by Kwame Kwei-Armah and will feature the Marley songbook, including No Woman No Cry and Exodus.

Endorsed by the Marley family, the musical drama will focus on his stardom in the 1970s when self-imposed exile in London led to a triumphant return to Jamaica to unite a nation that was on the brink of civil war.

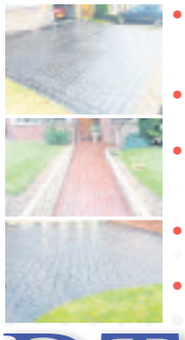
The show runs at Birmingham Rep from March 10 until April 8, 2017, and tickets go on sale tomorrow (Friday). See the website www.birmingham-rep.co.uk or call 0121 236 4455.

Busy road set to close for work on the drains

A BUSY road in Netherton will be closed for four days for drainage works to take place.

Saltwells Road will be closed from October 22 to October 25 near its junction with Saltwells Lane. A diversion route will be in place.

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800 jobs axe with Plumb Center firm restructure

PLUMB Center owner Wolseley is set to axe up to 800 jobs as part of a restructuring that will see it shut 80 branches and a distribution centre.

The company is not yet saying which branches face closure. It has Plumb Center outlets in Wolverhampton, Walsall, Brierley Hill, Cannock, Smethwick, Kidderminster and Stafford, as well as a branch of Burdens in West Bromwich. The shake-up will cost the firm £100 million.

Wolseley said: "The closure of around 80 branches and one distribution centre is expected to lead to up to 800 job losses, the impact of which we will minimise through redeployment and attrition as far as possible. The programme is subject to consultation."

The group employs 6,000 people in the UK and operates across 750 branches. The firm said that in the UK, which accounts for eight per cent of its profits, the repair, maintenance and improvement markets had declined and growth was 'weak'.

Wolseley said the restructuring, the result of a review, is expected to generate £25m to £30m of annual cost savings when complete.

The group made the announcement alongside full-year results, which saw overall revenues rise 4.2 per cent at constant exchange rates to £14.4 billion. Pre-tax profit rose from a total of £508m to £727m, driven by the US, where the bulk of its business is.

The shake-up will also see Wolseley close one of its four UK distribution centres,

Inquest on victim of stabbing opens

THE inquest has opened into the death of a man who was found stabbed at his home in Netherton.

Simon Johnson's body was found at the property in Cradley Road, on August 11.

The body of the 41-year-old father-of-two was discovered after he failed to arrive at work.

He had been stabbed in the back several times, Black Country Coroners Court was told.

Four teenagers were arrested on suspicion of murder but have been released on bail until October 17.

Senior Coroner Zafar Siddique adjourned the inquest until November 28.

The medical cause of death for Mr Johnson was given as stab wounds.

Stinger brings car chase to halt

POLICE chased a car through Dudley in the early hours of Wednesday before stopping it using a tyre-bursting 'stinger' and arresting one man on suspicion of stealing fuel. A 24-year-old Dudley man was bailed.

U-turn over ban on street food sellers

COUNCIL bosses have made a U-turn on a decision to ban street traders from part of Dudley town centre – after deciding they play a vital part in regenerating the area.

Three mobile food units could have been forced to move on if proposals had been approved by the licensing sub-committee to remove High Street as a 'consent' street and make it a 'prohibited' area.

Around six traders had originally been relocated from their pitches following the regeneration of Dudley Market in 2014.

Fast food trader, Mark Smith, who trades as Mr Sizzle, said the move to ban street traders permanently could have seen the loss of his livelihood.

He said: "I feel ecstatic that the committee has decided against banning us from that area. Mr Sizzle, along with the two remaining street traders, offers diversity and charm to the town centre.

"Just before the regeneration was going to start we were invited to a meeting and promised by officers that the relocation was only going to be temporary. However, we were then informed earlier this year that we may be prohibited to return under this review.

"A series of wooden posts were also installed in the positions we used to trade and my fixed electric-feeder pillar was removed. It seemed like it was a deliberate act to prevent the street traders from returning."

Mr Smith said that since moving from his original pitch outside The Churchill Shopping Centre, business had fallen by a quarter.

Three of the other street traders left the town, and the remaining two – a doughnut and a tikka seller – were positioned next to Mr Sizzle.

Mr Smith added: "Because we had to move to Castle Street outside of Greggs it effected trade massively. But following this decision we will seeking to move back to the market place."

At the licensing sub-committee meeting Councillor Elaine Taylor said: "We are concerned that the power facilities have been moved, which indicates that a decision had already been made – therefore the power posts will be reinstalled."

Nearly 100 children at risk of sex exploitation

ALMOST 100 children in the Dudley borough are at risk of being sexually exploited, according to safeguarding experts.

The children, aged between 11 and 17, have been identified in an investigation that found a total of 95 children deemed to be at risk of becoming victims of child sexual exploitation (CSE).

Children's services are working to try to make sure the vulnerable youngsters are protected. Of the total, 16 were said to be at 'serious risk' and another two at 'significant risk'. The vast majority of the children – 87 – are girls.

The Dudley Safeguarding Children Board said the number of children deemed to be at risk had increased over the second part of 2015/16.

It has also been revealed that of 700 reports of missing children, 220 were 'known young people at risk of CSE'.

The under-fire children's services department is putting together an action plan to try to tackle CSE in the borough.

The department was slammed by Ofsted earlier this year, which rated it as 'inadequate' in areas including 'children who need help and protection'.

Dudley Council has rolled out several campaigns to raise awareness.

Suspicious

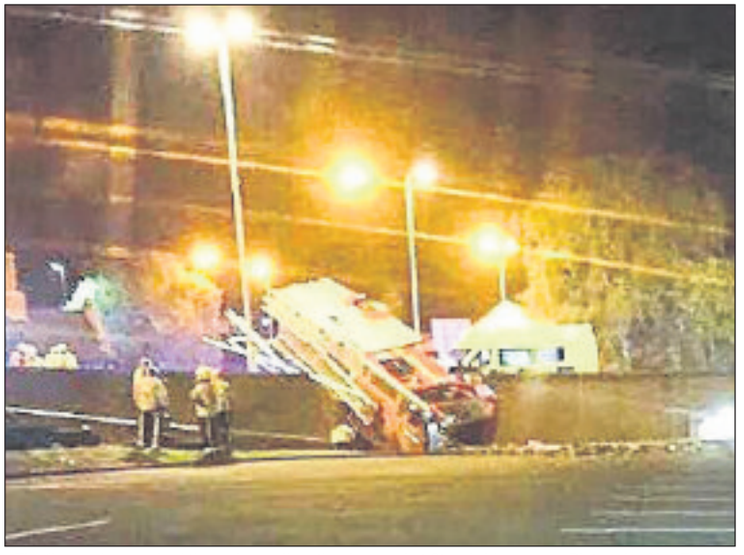
Taxi drivers have been urged to become the borough's 'eyes and ears' and report anything suspicious they see while out on the roads. Around 130 drivers have attended CSE awareness sessions so far.

Liz Murphy, independent chair, Dudley Safeguarding Children Board, said: "Tackling CSE is a shared priority amongst the council and Safeguarding Board partners and there are dedicated workers to support children and young people who are being sexually exploited.

"Similar to other local authorities, we have seen an increase in the number of children who are being identified as being sexually exploited or at risk of becoming exploited, this is the result of local and regional campaigns to increase awareness."

The Dudley Safeguarding Children Board said in its annual report that it needed to be 'constantly reflecting whether children in the area are safe and, if not, what more can be done'.

Fire engine crashes through wall



The fire engine crashed through a wall on the ring road at Stourbridge Picture by Alex Taylor

A FIRE engine smashed through a wall on Stourbridge ring road while responding to a 999 call.

Five firefighters were left needing hospital treatment after the crash in the early hours of Saturday when a crew from Haden Cross community fire station were on their way to a road accident.

The vehicle was left hanging over the wall at the junction with High Street, Audnam. No other vehicles were involved.

Group Commander Neil Griffiths said: "The five firefighters were taken to hospital for precautionary checks.

Damaged

"There were some minor injuries but all later left the hospital and returned to their station, before going off duty. We will be giving the crew and their families all the support we can."

Mr Griffiths said the vehicle was left 'extensively damaged' but had been replaced with another vehicle from the fleet of West Midlands Fire Service.

Pictures posted on Twitter by eyewitnesses show the appliance had smashed through a brick wall.

Part of Stourbridge ring road was closed off for most of Saturday morning while a recovery operation was underway to remove the vehicle.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Helping hand from house build firm

UNEMPLOYED residents have been given a career kick-start in house building by a national developer.

Ten over-19s from Dudley, Brierley Hill, Pensnett and Stourbridge completed a two-week Building Futures training programme with Wates Living Space Homes. Candidates, recruited through Dudley Council's adult community learning team, joined Wates at the new Butler's Crescent housing scheme at Tipton Road, where the developer is building 157 homes with Dudley Council and the Homes & Communities Agency.

Charity busking for good causes

A CHARITY busking event will be held at a cafe in Dudley.

Billy Spake Mon and Dave Coughlin are hosting the Buskin' for Charity at the Cosy Café, in Churchill Shopping Centre on October 22 from 10.30am.

Billy has invited many of his performer friends. John Langford, who hosts the Maverick Acoustic night every Wednesday at the Maverick pub in Amblecote, has already asked many of his regular acts to peform. All proceeds will go to local charities.

The pair present Black Country Radio's Omma n Chain Show.

New voices are sought by choir

DUDLEY Choral Society, who perform at the United Reformed Church Hall in Trinity Road, are beginning rehearsals for their Christmas Concert on December 10.

New musical director, Gary Cole, is keen to attract new members to come along and join the choir. There is no audition, they can just join in when they choir meet at 7.15pm each Monday evening. The group is also looking for a pianist. Call Mrs Anne Shirley on (01384) 259250.

American rock band Goo on at city venue

AMERICAN rock band Goo Goo Dolls are marking a 30-year career and their 11th studio album, Boxes, with a UK tour including a gig at Birmingham's O2 Institute in Digbeth next Thursday (October 13).

The band, which consists of singer-guitarist John Rzeznik and bassist Robby Takac, will be supported by Johnny Lloyd, former frontman of indie outfit Tribes, who is making a rapid return to the city following his recent gig at the Sunflower Lounge.

Festive fair at library

DUDLEY Library staff are planning a Christmas fair at the St James's Road library on December 10.

It will be held from 11am to 2pm.

The library last Friday took part in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning event in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews



Check out back yard for Turner art award

GREAT! Summer may now be over, and the nights starting to draw in, but who cares? It's also that time of the year when we can all head down the Big Smoke, roll up at the Tate Modern and admire the entries for the Turner Prize.

I love the Turner Prize, there is something delightfully egalitarian about it.

While all those other fuddy-duddy art competitions require you to be able to do something clever like paint a picture or sculpt a statue, with Turner there is none of that elitism. Never mind talent and all that, have you got a bag of rusty bolts, an old mattress and an empty fag packet? Great, you're in.

The big talking point this year comes from Anthea Hamilton, who wowed the judges with a giant pair of buttocks. The Tate says it brings "a surrealist sensibility to popular culture" and will "seduce the viewer with comic and unexpected combinations of images, materials and words".

Or maybe they are just talking out of their sculpture.

Meanwhile, Michael Dean is nominated for sculptures and installations made from "aesthetically-overlooked materials" like corrugated metal from a shop shutter. And Josephine Pryde presents New Media Express (Baby Wants to Ride), which examines the idea of "seductive qualities of the wider art world." Or a train set to you and me.

Sadly, though, the Black Country is unrepresented, which is a shame. Especially as I see so many potential Turner Prize entries at the bottom of people's gardens every Monday morning. Just before the tatters arrive.

❐❐❐

WE keep being told we face an obesity timebomb. Youngsters spend all day glued to their computers, and not getting enough exercise.

So traditional playground games like tig and British bulldogs are just the sort of thing we should be encouraging, right?

Well, unless you're Tim Cook, headmaster of Hillfort Primary School in Liskeard, Cornwall, who has banned children running from one side of the playground to the other.

Apparently, the idea is to reduce the number of children ending up in the first-aid room. The what? Did they have a first-aid room when you were at school? From what I remember, if you fell over, you sat shame-faced in the corner until the bell and learned to be more careful next time.

Still Mr Cook said he had been 'proactive' – I bet he does 'workshops' as well – by organising activities that don't involve running.

"I left our Year Five class dancing to YMCA just last week," he beamed.

Can't wait to see the new school uniform...

Stunning sunset scenes are captured on camera



The scene in Heath Hayes captured by Louise Harborow

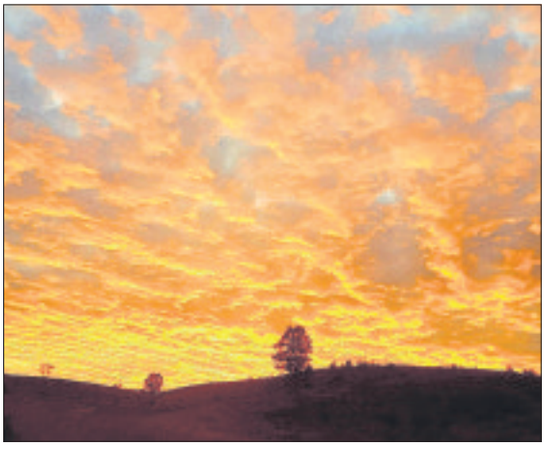


The serene Dudley Rowing Club at Lodge Farm Reservoir

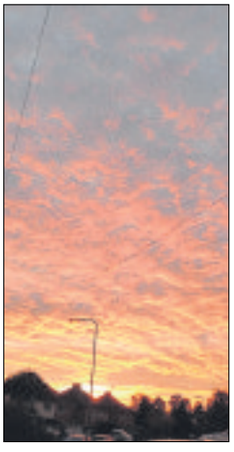


Stuart Cattell's photograph of the sunset over Short Heath

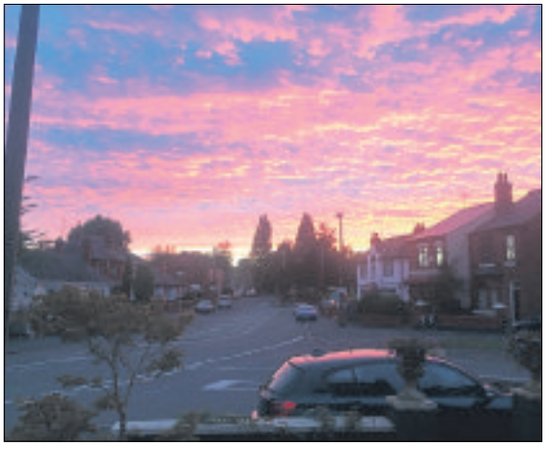
The red sky at night brings much delight



This dramatic shot was captured by bricklayer Glen Farrington



Sue Baugh's Bilbrook scene



Andy Stokes took this shot of the sky above Victoria Park in Tipton

IT was a case of red sky at night, photographers' delight as hundreds seized on the opportunity to snap a picture of stunning skies.

Among the best of them posted online was the one taken by mountain biker Glen Farrington from Milford, Staffordshire, looking toward Stafford.

It was taken using a mobile phone – a Galaxy S7 Edge.

The 41-year-old bricklayer was out with his girlfriend Nicky George when he noticed the jaw-dropping skyline at 7pm last Tuesday,

Photographers came out in force to catch a glimpse of the dramatic skies last week. **SIMON STONE** reports

Mr Farrington, who lives in Cannock, said: "We stopped from our riding and chatted before I looked up and took a picture on the phone.

"I didn't realise how well it had come out until I got home. The reaction I've had online has been quite something."

From fiery red to stunning pink – others were able to witness the dramatic sunset.

Centre

Hundreds of people posted pictures they had taken online following the sunset.

From Tipton in the heart of the Black Country, to the centre of Birmingham and Heath Hayes near Cannock, the red skyline touched the whole region. Pictures also showed the stunning sunset above Lodge Farm Reservoir in Netherton, the home of Dudley Rowing Club, and in Short Heath in Willenhall.

The old saying 'red sky at night, shepherds' delight' rang true, as clouds cleared for a dry next day.

A red sky at night often means fair weather is generally heading toward the country. It is caused by dust and small particles trapped in the atmosphere by high pressure.

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So where's that land of milk and honey?

VIRTUALLY no day goes by when a letter appears in the paper telling us how marvellous we have been doing since we voted to leave the EU and how good this decision was for this country.

The problem with all that is just the fact that we haven't actually left and that nothing has changed except the political upheaval in both main parties.

A long time ago, the Pilgrim Fathers made a similar decision, boarded the Mayflower and set sail to start a new life. The electorate, unlike the Pilgrim Fathers, ound that the ship they selected to board had a mutiny and most of the crew jumped ship forcing them to take on a new captain and crew.

Three months on, the boat chosen by the Brexiteers is still in the harbour and looks like it will be there for some considerable time. Please, all you Brexiteers, stop gloating and patting yourselves on the shoulder, telling all of us how good the decision was for this country. When you find that land of milk and honey then tell us all about it.

D SPECKNER
Dudley

Readers help to save dogs

SEVERAL weeks ago The Chronicle and the Express & Star kindly published my letter asking for help to continue our support of Amicii Dog Shelter in Romania.

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has donated dog food, blankets, towels, collars, leads and so much more, as well as financial donations to the vet bills.

The response has been incredible, for which I am extremely grateful.

Unfortunately in Romania, dogs are treated as vermin. They are abused and tortured on the streets and in the vile public shelters in ways which we in our civilised country could not begin to understand.

Thanks to your support the dogs at Amicii are well cared for and safe.

MARION FISHER
Dudley Animal Rescue

Let's take some pride in our town

HAVING achieved Green Flag status, and proudly flying a flag, all due to volunteers of Friends of Buffery Park, it is soul-destroying to see litter and fly-tipping constantly spoiling this well-used green space.

The whole area is becoming a rubbish tip with even discarded furniture on people's front doors.

It is a blight for Dudley as a whole and, as the council can't keep on top of the problem, time has come to start enforcement.

As traffic wardens are now known as civil enforcement officers, surely that covers dropping litter. Instead of hounding drivers only, it's time litter louts felt pain with a fine. Community help in this would also be very welcome.

Dudley is a great town but needs looking after better. There are weeds and rubbish all over the place. Not really a good welcome for locals and visitors. Other towns seem to take pride of their parks, why can't Dudley?

PAUL WINCHURCH
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
dudley.chrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Time to be realistic and legalise cannabis

WHILE I agree with the proposals to advocate legalising the availability of cannabis for medicinal purposes, I believe that this is only one element of the wider discussion.

I would contend that because a large number of people need mood changing experiences in their lives, that legalising the availability of cannabis would provide an option to alcohol which would be less dangerous for the individual, the family, and society in general. In an ideal world perhaps there would be no need for such mood changing experiences, but the reality is that many people do have this need.

It is difficult to quantify the number of individuals who would make the move given equal legal status. Many will say that any such move would afford the public the opportunity to engage in tandem use of drugs.

I would argue that, as most of us have finite amounts of money to finance such recreational indulgences, then this would be relatively low in number. The individual, the family and society in general would all benefit as a result of equal legal availability of the drugs.

I use neither alcohol nor cannabis, so have no personal axe to grind, but am concerned for many in society that would benefit from such a move.

L R FIELD
Dudley

Service for the elderly at risk

I HAVE received a letter from Age UK Dudley's Good Neighbours Scheme to say it will be folding in December due to the lack of funding by Dudley Council.

This is devastating news for volunteers, our clients and the good buddy telephone service. Can anyone out there fund our service?

It will be a great shame if we can't keep this great service going.

We are all going to get old. I guess that there will be nothing out there for you with all the cut backs that the council have made.

MRS J BENNETT
Dudley

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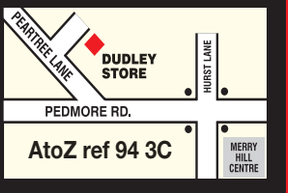
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Twist in the tale of a life in crime

40 brave elements to attend

Wollaston E TWG

THE first meeting after the summer break was held on a foul evening. Nevertheless 40 members braved the elements to attend.

Chairman Julie Willetts welcomed everyone including two new members, namely Julie Walton and Jennifer Thompson.

Jill Dunn will organise a board for members to sign if they are interested in a visit to Highgrove Gardens – permitted numbers per visit are limited at this venue. The next luncheon date is Bodenham Arboretum on Wednesday, October 19.

Miscellaneous correspondence was read by the secretary, including a note from Jessie Powell and Joanne Forrest thanking the guild for the lovely evening, on the occasion of their talk about vintage jewellery.

The club was informed that one of its members had won a reasonable prize in the guild national raffle.

The choir is shortly to begin rehearsals for the forthcoming carol services and have again been asked to perform at the Federation Carol Service.

Appreciation was expressed to speaker Carl Denning for his enlightening talk on the necessity for guide dogs for the blind.

An extra donation was given to this very worthy cause. Competition winners were Pat McEwan and Julie Willetts, while raffle prizes went to Chris Picken and Barbara Homer.

The next meeting is at 7.30pm on October 11 at St James Church Hall.

Awards presented for long service

Grange (E) Guild

THE monthly meeting was held on September 6 at Grange Court, Prescott Road, Stourbridge.

Acting Chairman Chris Holton presided. She read the minutes of the previous meeting which were duly accepted and signed. Treasurer Jill Attwood gave an up-to-date financial report.

The Grange Guild Harvest supper had been prepared earlier by the committee and their helpers and then served to members. The two-course meal was thoroughly enjoyed and the evening was voted a huge success. Tea and coffee was then served by the committee.

The sales table consisted of seasonal produce and everything was sold.

The acting chairman had the pleasant duty of presenting long service awards to members who had served for 25, 30, 40, 50 and 60 + years. This was a great surprise to the members with Chris giving a brief report on each member that had received these awards.

Some of these members had also been founder members with some of the ladies serving on Grange Guild committee and West Midlands Federation Committee.

A vote of thanks was given to committee members and their helpers for a lovely evening. The raffle was drawn and four lucky ladies received prizes.

Marlene O'Hanlon reminded members that the last collection for the shoe boxes would be accepted at the October meeting.

Wordsley M TG

THE September meeting was opened by vice-chairman Ann Birchell who welcomed members and visitors.

The Federation report included a Christmas workshop on November 19 at the Ruskin Centre from 10am-4pm, a flower demonstration on December 7 and the annual carol service. The Christmas lunch outing on Monday, December 5, will take place at The Lodge, Wellington Road, Dudley.

A coffee morning is arranged for Wednesday, October 26, hosted by Pat Hadley.

A day out at Boundary Mill is being arranged for Thursday, November 3.

Ann had organised a quiz prior to the annual Harvest sale. The next meeting, on Monday, October 17, from 10am, will be a very humorous, although sometime quite serious, talk entitled 'My Life In Crime'.

Dave Wilkins will be looking at some of the aspects of his time in West Mercia Constabulary with an entertaining look 'behind the scenes' all based on actual experiences and incidents – with a twist!

Ladies enjoy Harvest celebration

Kingswinford TG

CHAIRMAN Enid Fennell welcomed two visitors to the September meeting which was a Harvest celebration. So it was great regret that she announced the cancellation of the Federation Harvest Luncheon.

Following the usual necessary business, the celebration began. Harvest hymns were sung, Enid read a prayer, Ann read a poem and Doreen said Grace.

Hot dogs, cider or apple juice were served by the committee. Members had contributed a large quantity of produce to the Harvest sale, which was disposed of quite quickly. A good time was had by all.

Sally was thanked for providing flowers for the chairman's table. On Monday, Alan Peace will talk about 'bus v bike' – a journey from Lands End to John O'Groats.

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Bricklayer buys house he helped build



Bricklayer Billy Hopkins and girlfriend Jessica Cooper outside their new home on the Mercury Place development

WHILE many people dream of buying their first home, a self-employed bricklayer helped to build the house he has just purchased with his partner.

Billy Hopkins, from Sedgley, and his girlfriend Jessica Cooper, from Penkridge, bought their first home together after Billy realised the location of the new development he was working on was ideally located for them in terms of work and family.

The bricklayer was working for Barratt Homes at the Mercury Place development in Wolverhampton, and now he and Jessica have bought a three-bedroom house on the estate.

"I'd been working onsite for a few months and brought Jess to view the show home," said Billy, aged 25.

Reserved

"When we came to look at what was available to buy at Mercury Place we decided the Finchley was the perfect house in terms of its size and design, so we went ahead and reserved it."

Both Billy and Jessica had been living with their respective parents while saving for a deposit, and Billy had also been working with his father Russell Hopkins, also a bricklayer, on the same property. The couple bought off-plan early in the build, meaning Billy could make slight adjustments to the property as it was constructed.

"Being able to be involved in the build from the very beginning makes it extra special for us," said Billy. "We've had a few little extras included to make it certain it was exactly how we wanted it."

The two, three and four bedroom homes at Mercury Place are priced from £136,950 to £235,950. See www.barratthomes.co.uk for details.

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Villagers launch protest over 'quarry' lorry fears

PROTESTORS came out in force to send a message to developers over plans for a 'quarry' and marina at a village near Dudley.

Residents at Swindon, near Wall Heath, are fighting proposals for the extraction of sand and gravel from a 22-acre site, which is being developed for a 199-boat marina.

Villagers fear the scheme will bring noisy vehicles and diesel fumes to the heart of their rural community. More than 50 residents made their voices heard at the proposed site last Wednesday with banners.

Winifred Cumiskey, aged 80, who lives opposite the site and was at the protest, said: "This is the village showing their feelings on this and saying 'we don't want it'. The sand, the dirt, the dust – it would be really terrible. Think of people who are ill. It will make them worse. Why do they want to ruin a little village? We don't want the marina either. There is already one just a mile away at Ashwood."

The firm behind the application, MHJ Ltd, say the sand and gravel would be extracted to form new levels for the marina.

The boat scheme could see the village population double but little visible progress has been made, despite planning permission being in place. Marina plans also include a 130-space car park, farm shop, tea room and viewing area.

Extraction of sand and gravel could involve up to 100 vehicles coming in and out of the village per day.

Neil Warren, Director at Land and Water Estates, formed from MHJ Ltd, said the site should not be described as a 'quarry' and matched council guidelines.



Villager Winifred Cumiskey, front, who lives near the site, joins protestors fighting sand and gravel plans

Creative writing workshops at library

BUDDING writers may find inspiration on Saturday mornings at Dudley library's creative writing workshops.

The two-hour sessions are run by local writers Kerry Hadley-Pryce and Ken Preston and the next workshop takes place on Saturday, October 15.

Kerry has a masters degree in creative writing and has published an anthology of short fiction as well as an acclaimed novel entitled 'The Black Country'. Ken has written novels and short stories including romance, horror and crime. He has also written young adult novels and runs a book design company for independent authors.

The workshops are open to new and experienced writers who want to try their hand at short fiction, poetry or a novel. The cost of each two-hour session is £10.

The workshops will take place at Dudley Library from 10am to 12pm on October 15 and November 5. The sessions began at the end of last month.

For more information or to book a place contact Ken Preston on 07772 505427.

Corbyn is for Metro extension proposals

LABOUR leader Jeremy Corbyn has backed a Midland Metro extension after outlining a policy for £48 billion of additional investment for the West Midlands.

After announcing the policy, Mr Corbyn said he was in support in the Metro system. There are plans to create a line linking Brierley Hill with Walsall.

He said: "Many people voted against the EU in the referendum because they felt left behind in society.

"They felt their community wasn't getting the investment it needed and therefore their children were not getting the chances they need.

"There has to be a renewed effort at investment in housing, health and education and there has to be a much greater sense for democracy, not just in within the Labour party and trade unions but in society as a whole.

"I think the numbers of people attending our leadership campaign events is much greater than last year, phenomenal numbers turning up everywhere. That is a sign there is a thirst to do things differently.



Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn

Crisis

"What we are putting forward is a comprehensive economic strategy. We are also saying as a country we have to face up to the housing crisis.

"There has to be investment in council housing lifetime tenancy and good quality social housing.

"We cannot go on the levels of high cost in private rented sector and insecurity as well as overcrowding in many council places.

"There needs to be a housing building programme, a big one, which simply hasn't happened much over the past few years."

Among his priorities for the Black Country, Mr Corbyn said he supported the idea of extending the Metro line.

Plans are in place for new lines to Walsall and Brierley Hill, but a lack of funding has scuppered any progress in recent years.

He said: "I think the idea of the development of Metro rail systems has been a very good economic generator where ever they have come in.

"The initial scepticism about the Manchester tram system – it did very well and has grown a great deal, ditto Nottingham, ditto Sheffield.

"I think the tramway systems are relatively cheap to install compared to underground systems. Ultimately they lead to less traffic on the road and the faster moving around of people, better air quality.

"I think the whole of the West Midlands has opportunity to benefit a great deal from it.

"There was once a very comprehensive rail system all over the West Midlands, some of those lines are available to be transferred into tramways."

Comic's Arena gigs

COMEDIAN John Bishop is set to return to Birmingham next autumn after announcing his long-awaited return to stand-up comedy. The Liverpudlian comic's new show, entitled Winging It, will be at the Barclaycard Arena for two nights, on November 10 and 11, 2017. Tickets go on sale today (Thursday) at 10am. Book online at www.theticketfactory.com or call 0844 3388 222.

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Get rid of waste during winter

DUDLEY borough residents are being reminded that they can dispose of unwanted items at a household waste recycling centre seven days a week over the winter period.

As of last Saturday, the Dudley Council site in Birmingham Street, Stourbridge, will be open from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Sunday. Residents in the north of the Dudley borough who use the Wolverhampton Council-run Anchor Lane site in Coseley can also use that facility from 10am to 4pm on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, and from 8am to 4pm on weekends.

People can use both sites to dispose of general household and garden waste in addition to recycling materials including paper, cans, and electrical items. Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environment, said: "These are brilliant facilities which provide residents with the opportunity to dispose of, or recycle, many items."

GP practice wins praise from inspectors for improvements

A GP medical practice has been moved out of special measures by inspectors following the latest visit by representatives off the Care Quality Commission.

Bath Street Medical Practice, in Sedgley, had been rated inadequate after an inspection in November. Shortly after that inspection, the provider retired and a salaried GP was appointed.

The new GP applied for a new registration, which meant another inspection was needed.

The follow-up inspection was carried out on July 26 and the practice has been upgraded to 'requiring improvement'. The areas of care that need improving after the latest report were the centre's effectiveness and care. Other areas – leadership, safety and responsiveness – were rated as good.

Attention

An inspector said: "Although we found that there were some areas for improvement, our findings indicated that the practice were aware of the areas that required further attention. There was a proactive action plan in place which was being addressed."

Professor Steve Field, Chief Inspector of General Practice, said he was taking the practice out of special measures following the inspection after 'significant improvements made to the quality of care'.

The centre's practice manager said: "We are happy to be moving forward. The CQC said it is very hard to be moved from inadequate to good, so they have rated us as requiring improvement before we have another inspection.

"The CQC inspectors said they were really pleased with the progress that had been made in the latest inspection."

The manager added that the previous GP did not leave because of the November 2015 inspection but had retired.

● **For the full report see expressand star.com**

Glee showcase for Irish star

WINNER of this year's Irish Choice Music Prize for song of the year, Dublin singer-songwriter Gavin James is in concert on Tuesday at Birmingham's Glee Club, in the Arcadian Centre.

Bitter Pill, the title track from his album, took the single prize for the 24-year-old who tops the bill at major venues in his homeland.

This summer he also supported his friend Ed Sheeran in front of 75,000 music fans at Croke Park in Dublin, toured the USA with Sam Smith and opened for Taylor Swift at Hyde Park.

He has been seen on TV's The One Show and The Late Late Show with James Corden.

For details see www.glee.co.uk/venues/birmingham or call 0871 472 0400.

Today's the drey for squirrels



One of Dudley Zoo's red squirrels, England's dwindling native species of squirrel

TWO red squirrels have been brought to Dudley Zoo in a bid to help save the species in the UK.

Native red squirrels were once a common sight in the UK but have seen a rapid decline over the last 60 years, with many driven by destruction of the forest habitats and competition for food with the larger grey squirrels.

The two female squirrels will form breeding pairs with the Castle Hill attraction's resident males.

Conservation Officer Chris Leeson, said: "Red squirrels are naturally found across most of Europe, into northern Asia and Siberia, but here in the UK there are estimated to only be around 120,000 left and the majority of these are found in Scotland.

"Because of the ongoing threats the red squirrel is protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act and captive breeding red squirrel programmes like the one we're involved in are vital to species survival."

The females have been brought in from Drayton Manor and Welsh Mountain Zoo.

Their introduction ties in with Red Squirrel Week, which aims to raise awareness of the plight of the British native species.

Dudley Zoo have been part of a captive breeding programme for red squirrels since 1996 and in the past have released young squirrels into refuges in the hope of boosting numbers.

Red squirrels live for around six years and are typically six to eight inches long and weigh around 250 to 340 grams.

They do not hibernate but they lay down stores of food to see them through periods when fresh food is not available. Their diet includes seeds, flowers, leaves and fruit.

Five-a-side raises £3,600 for hospice

A FIVE-A-SIDE football tournament hosted by Dudley Building Society raised £3,600 for its charity of the year.

The competition, in aid of Mary Stevens Hospice, Stourbridge, was played on Tuesday, September 27, at Goals in Rowley Regis.

Ten teams comprised of local businesses, including ECA Group, FBC Manby Bowdler, George Green and Copthorne Merry Hill all took part, while the hospice also entered a team.

The eventual winners were Wolverhampton's Technology Management, who beat software firm, Ciphr, 2-0 in the final.

Raj Bains, the society's head of legal and secretarial, said: "A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who sponsored and supported the event. Mary Stevens Hospice carries out such amazing work and events such as this will hopefully contribute to them continuing an essential service."

Factory war effort work

THE role played by factories in the Black Country as part of the war effort is explored in a new exhibition at Bilston Craft Gallery.

'Work in Wartime' highlights the importance of local factories during both world wars. The exhibition features of archive images and original items including a very rare Sunbeam military dispatch rider's motorcycle on loan from the Black Country Living Museum. Work in Wartime runs at Bilston Craft Gallery until November 13 and is free.

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Disgust at travellers who use playground as a toilet

NEIGHBOURS and councillors were left disgusted after travellers moved on to a park in Kingswinford, leaving the site and a nearby playground in a vile state.

The playground, which is near Glynne Primary School, was sealed off amid hygiene concerns after children from the traveller encampment were seen defecating in the playground and using their socks for toilet paper.

by Richard Guttridge

The caravans at Cot Lane were finally shifted on Thursday around 4pm after a dozen police officers arrived to serve travellers with notices ordering them to leave.

Parents of pupils at Glynne Primary were advised not to let their children use the playground until it had been cleaned.

Councillor Paul Brothwood, who represents Wordsley, was outraged by the actions of the group. He said: "You had people defecating on a public space. It was absolutely abhorrent."

Bags of rubbish, torn-up fencing and even an abandoned pram were among the piles of waste left by the group, which was left for Dudley Council staff to clean away.

There have now been calls to make sure travellers can't occupy the site and, if they do, that they can me be moved on more quickly.

Up to a dozen caravans were on the land for more than a week before police intervened and in that time residents' say their lives were made a misery.

Christine Adams, aged 67, of Barnett Lane, beside the park, said: "It was a bit traumatic. One person would always be in the house, we were scared to go out. We have never experienced anything like it before.

"We weren't sorry to see them go but we are sorry for the people who will have them next."

Craig Carpenter, aged 53, who lives nearby, said: "I have been walking around the park and seeing human excrement. It's the mess they leave behind, trying to clean up after the dog is bad enough."

Councillor Brothwood said he would campaign for tougher new legislation.



Ros and Phil Tidmarsh speak to an Aldi representative about the store plans for Kingswinford

Backing for new Aldi on Focus site

RESIDENTS expressed their delight at the prospect of a new Aldi store in Kingswinford at a consultation event.

The supermarket is to be located on the site of the former Focus DIY, off Dudley Road, and it is expected to create around 40 full-time and part-time jobs.

Those visiting at a public exhibition of the plans at St Mary's Church Centre on Wednesday shared their views on the proposal.

Philip and Ros Tidmarsh, who live on Cherry Tree Road, said: "We are very happy about it. At the moment we have to go to Brierley Hill to do our shopping. This is going to be right on our door step, so we can walk to it."Elaine Hawkins, who lives on the Ploverdale Estate, said: "We are happy that the site is going to be used, as otherwise it will be an eyesore."

The store would include a 107 car parking spaces.

Murder and mystery in society play

AN amateur theatre company play members of an amateur theatre company in Wordsley Amateur Dramatic Society's latest production in Kingswinford.

The group stage Curtain Up on Murder by Bettine Manktelow from tonight (Thursday) to Saturday at Kingswinford Methodist Church, Stream Lane.

The story tells of an amateur drama company rehearsing in a theatre at the end of a pier on a stormy night, when suddenly the lights go out, the doors are locked and they fubd themselves with a mysterious, ghostly presence.

It is an old-fashioned murder mystery with some comedy thrown in for good measure and may appeal to Agatha Christie fans. For tickets email meganjane fleetwood@hotmail.co.uk or visit www.wads-online.co.uk website.

Poetry theme at the library

AN EVENING of Black Country poems is on offer at Kingswinford Library tonight (Thursday) to celebrate National Poetry Day.

The Nailmakers' Daughters are three poets who take their inspiration from the industry and traditions of the Black Country.

A collection of verse by the three – Emma Purshouse, Iris Rhodes and Marion Cockin – has been published by Offa's Press. The poets will be appearing at 6pm. Admission £3.

Fundraising concert by Songsters

DUDLEY'S Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir, fresh from the success of their celebrity concert with Lesley Garrett, are appearing in concert in Kingswinford on Saturday evening.

The choir, supported by local duo Jon Allen and Fleur, will be 'Singing From The Heart of the Black Country' at St Mary's Church.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £6, including refreshments.

Proceeds from the concert will go to the Leukaemia Appeal, which supports the Georgina Unit at Russells Hall Hospital, and Action Heart.

Tickets are available from Joy Brown on (01384) 292233, Paul Jenkins on 07727134358, or from the church.

The 70-strong choir are based in the Kingswinford area.

Health talk is held at centre

AN AWARENESS morning for those affected by osteoporosis will be held in Wall Heath.

The Active Seniors group will be holding the event at Wall Heath Community Centre, in Enville Road, on October 20.

Katie Hall, regional development manager for The National Osteoporosis Society will be giving a short talk. Tickets are £2.50 including refreshments and optional exercise class. Call 07512 546480.

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Real ale festival held at four pubs

FOUR Black Country pubs are uniting a 12-day beer and real ale festival.

Ale connoisseurs can enjoy five real ales from across the world alongside a selection of up to 15 beers from the UK during the festival at The Full Moon on Dudley High Street; The Abraham Darby in the Merry Hill Centre; The Clifton in Bull Ring, Sedgley;. and The Waterfront Inn on Level Street, Brierley Hill.

The majority of the beers have been brewed exclusively for the festival.

Overseas beers have been sourced from brewers in Australia, South Africa, Italy and the USA.

The festival will run from Wednesday, October 12 to October 23 inclusive, with all beers priced from £2.05 to £2.45 a pint.

Nanette Young, manager of The Full Moon, said: "The festival is the perfect opportunity to showcase the wonderful range of British-grown hop varieties and support British hop farmers."

Free heroin injections for addicts is slammed by MP

A GOVERNMENT approved scheme where heroin addicts can safely inject themselves in so-called 'shoot-up' rooms free on the NHS has been criticised.

The controversial treatment features in the Home Office's Modern Crime Prevention Strategy which was signed off by Prime Minister Theresa May in March when she was Home Secretary.

The idea behind the scheme is to give addicts a place that they can use the drug without the danger of it being cut with impure, possibly deadly substances.

But the method has been slammed by Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin who said: "Decent people who go to work and pay their taxes will be appalled to discover Theresa May wants to use taxpayers money to give drug addicts their fix.

Prison

"Instead of this crazy nonsense, she should reverse the cuts to the police so they can put drug dealers in prison and stop them causing this misery in the first place."

Backers of the scheme say that for a small cohort of entrenched, long-term opiate users who have not achieved recovery any other way, there is evidence that supervised heroin injection reduces crime.

Trials took place in England during 2011 and a European-wide study was published in 2012 which reported positive results but said it would be expensive.

A Department for Health spokesman confirmed that the technique was used in Britain but in 'very rare' cases where all other treatment 'had failed.'

He added that only specialists with a Home Office licence could oversee the injection of heroin.



Ian Austin MP – appalled

Folk fans flock to the Red Lion

WINNERS of the best duo title in the 2015 BBC Radio Folk Awards, Josienne Clarke and Ben Walker, are in concert at Birmingham's Red Lion Folk Club on Wednesday.

They release their new album, Overnight, tomorrow (Friday).

The following Wednesday, October 19, duo Belinda O'Hooley and Heidi Tiddow play the folk venue at the Red Lion pub in Kings Heath.

They released their latest album, Shadows, in the summer. It was the follow up to The Hum, one of the top folk albums of 2014.

Forthcoming acts at the Vicarage Road venue also include Coope, Boyes and Simpson, Andy Irvin, The Fair Rain and Vin Garbutt. See redlionfolkclub.com for details.

Hooray for a Dolly good musical show



Cast members of 9 to 5, from left, Natasha Bennett-Ince as Roz, Lexie Bennett as Doralee, Simon McGee as Franklin Hart Jr, and Maria Shee as Violet

THE hilarious story of three secretaries who wreak revenge on their sexist boss is coming to Wolverhampton.

The hit musical 9 to 5 is performed at the Grand Theatre by South Staffs Musical Theatre Company, who are celebrating 80 years of putting on shows around the area.

The production features original numbers from Dolly Parton's Oscar, Tony and Grammy Award nominated score, including Backwoods Barbie, Shine Like the Sun, and the smash hit, 9 to 5.

It centres on Miss Doralee Rhodes, a kind-hearted secretary who fantasises about lassoing her 'sexist, egotistical, lying, hypocritical bigot' boss and roasting him on a spit. Co-workers Violet and Judy, also bullied and demeaned by the vile Franklin Hart Junior, concoct a plan to get even with him.

The show launches on Tuesday, October 11, and runs until Saturday, October 15, with shows every night, plus matinees on Wednesday and Saturday. Tickets are £10.50-£20 and available from the Grand box office. Call 01902 429 212.

Views on cycle routes in transport survey

TRANSPORT bosses have launched a consultation on plans for improvements to Black Country cycling routes.

A survey has been started looking for residents' views on the Black Country Cycling and Walking Strategy and Implementation Plan, which has been commissioned by the four Black Country councils with Transport for West Midlands. Councillor Judith Rowley, lead member for fair and safe travel on the West Midland Combined Authority's transport delivery committee, said: "We're aiming for a joined up approach to increase walking and cycling levels across the Black Country and the wider West Midlands and we need to know what people think. This builds on recent local investment in cycle lanes, walking facilities and successful initiatives."

The survey closes at 5pm on October 16. Visit http://snapsurveys.centro.org.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=146902228986

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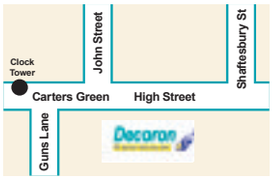
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Sun will come out for Annie stars



Isabella Cook and Izzy Westley-Smith share the title role in Annie at Brierley Hill Civic Hall with Molly as Sandy the Dog

ONE of the best-loved musical theatre shows, Annie, is being staged at Brierley Hill Civic Hall next week.

Brierley Hill Musical Theatre Company will perform Broadway hit Annie the Musical from Tuesday to Saturday, October 15.

The production team for the show includes musical director George Stuart and choreographer Anna Forster, who enjoyed excellent reviews of their 2015 production of Guys and Dolls.

They are joined this year by Adam Lacey, who is making his directorial debut for the company. Following in the footsteps of Mr Strictly Come Dancing, Craig Revel Horwood, who recently starred in the show's revival,the group has opted to have a gentleman play the role of the orphanage matron, Miss Hannigan. In this case Mark Horne will bring the booze-soaked harridan to life.

Role

Isabella Cook and Izzy Westley-Smith share the title role, together with a very energetic bunch of orphans and a supportive ensemble.

Sarah Coussens plays Grace Farrell, while John Leaman takes the role of Daddy Warbucks, and not forgetting Sandy the Dog, played by Molly.

The Saturday performances are already sold out but for Tuesday to Friday tickets, call 0845 658 8095 or visit the www.bhmtc.co.uk website.

Meanwhile, Startime Variety's Sheila Darby Award is presented by the theatre company to the member they feel has contributed the most in the past year and this year's recipient is Kirsty Aldridge, 29, from Netherton. Kirsty, who works at Sports Direct and sings on the local club circuit, has been a member of the group for 15 years.



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New Sunday market launched on car park

A NEW street market has been launched in Dudley with council leaders saying it will help revitalise the town centre.

The Black Country Market and Car boot sale, backed by Dudley Council, will be held every Sunday on the Flood Street Car Park.

The market was officially launched by council leaders on Sunday, October 2, and dozens of traders, shoppers and dignitaries from the town attended, though not invited guest Wolves skipper Danny Batth who was unable to attend due to club commitments.

Councillor Kurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "I am absolutely thrilled with the new market. I believe 25 traders attended on the weekend but I expect more to turn up next week.

"Give it four to six weeks, and hopefully the market will be the central attraction in Dudley."

"The market is targeted for people across the region – from Sandwell, Wolverhampton, Kidderminster, Birmingham. I can see this being a big success for Dudley."

Wolves defender Danny Batth had been expected at the launch but was unable to attend.

Councillor Ahmed added: "I am led to believe it will be re-arranged for him to come down to market in a couple of weeks."

"Parking will be free around the market for the next two weeks. The town centre has around 850 free parking spaces in total."

Traders at the market said they were impressed. Wendy Wyatt, who had travelled down from Tamworth to sell a range of goods including CDs, toiletries and cosmetics, said: "It is a great location, I am hoping more traders will come next week."

Carbooter Christine Warr, from Brockmoor, added: "The market is taking off, it is good."

Boost

Organiser Balbir Singh traders were selling a variety of goods. "I am really pleased with the launching of the market," he said. "The market will run from 9am to 3pm and car boot from 7am to 2pm."

Councillor Alan Finch add: "This is the uplift Dudley requires. Now we want people to come out and support us."

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Mohammed Hanif, said: "It's a good location. My wish is for the market to be a success and I think it will be."



Dudley Mayor Councillor Mohammed Hanif chooses a Christmas jumper with market organiser Balbir Singh

Governor's anger at proposed axing of lollipop wardens

A SCHOOL governor has blasted proposals to axe lollipop wardens across Dudley borough, saying the move could put children's safety at risk.

Crossing patrols will disappear from outside the school gates unless schools stump up the cash to pay for them to stay, as Dudley Council say they can no longer pay the bill due to cut-backs.

Abdul Qadus, a governor at Wollescote School, who also sits on Dudley Council's children's services committee, has criticised the plans and claims it is unlikely many schools will be able to afford to pay for crossing wardens. They will be axed from April, under the plans. It would save the authority around £260,000 a year.

Father-of-four Mr Qadus said: "I am concerned for the children. If they can afford to pay thousands of pounds for directors, why can't they pay for the safety of children? What happens if a child gets hurt, who is going to be responsible?"

With budgets already stretched at many schools, Mr Qadus says it is unlikely many can meet the added cost of crossing wardens, which could be as much as £20,000 a year if they have multiple wardens.

Dudley Council's environment boss Councillor Hilary Bills said: "Unfortunately, this service like many other non-statutory services is being reviewed due to ongoing funding cuts by central Government. Dudley is not the first authority to impose charging schools for their school crossing patrol service."

She added: "The safety of children is of paramount importance to the council."

£365k paid out to chief who left crime job

A BOSS in the office of the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner received £365,000 as part of a pay-off after leaving her job, following the election of a new commissioner.

Jacky Courtney, left her role as chief executive on April 30 last year as part of a shake-up following the election of David Jamieson.

Mrs Courtney, who had served as chief executive to the old West Midlands Police Authority for seven years, received a £74,600 'loss of office' payment as well as a £278,900 contribution to her pension pot.

Additionally, she was paid £11,500 in salary and fees for approximately one month's work and received £500 worth of benefits, to total just over £365,000.

The pension payment was made as part of the generous Local Government Pension Scheme that means public sector employers must make all the contributions that would have been paid into the pension fund up to the employee's normal retirement date, even if they have to leave their job.


Jacky Courtney – pension

Car

As chief executive she was paid £109,300 and had an Audi company car.

The PCC's publicly available accounts state Mrs Courtney 'retired' but it is understood that she was made redundant in a restructure by Labour's Mr Jamieson, who became commissioner in 2014 following the death of Bob Jones, a former Wolverhampton councillor.

Jonathan Jardine replaced Mrs Courtney as chief executive on a salary of £79,200 and no company car.

A West Midlands PCC spokesman said: "The office the PCC inherited was from the bloated and unaccountable days of the police authority, where some members of staff were paid very high salaries and everyone got first class travel.

"But since the election of the police and crime commissioner in 2014, things have changed. The office has been reorganised and we now work in a more streamlined, accountable and effective way, even though the commissioner has more responsibilities than the old police authority.

"Thanks to the changes we've already made, we are making savings of £300,000 a year on those old police authority days. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner is now a modern, representative and effective workplace. The fat from the police authority days has been trimmed.

"The core annual office budget is lower than the police authority peak, and makes up about 0.3 per cent of the police budget, one of the lowest shares in the country. The office is transparent in how it works and details of our expenditure are published on our website."

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A senior member of staff views the work taking place at the Rover Group's premises



An abandoned mission statement book in an office



Austin Allegros coming off the production line. The car was produced from 1973 to 1982

Abandoned Longbridge's reminders of glory days



Workers seen from the 1980s at Longbridge



The shell of a Rover 75 which has been left abandoned since the collapse of MG Rover in 2005

THESE pictures show how a huge car factory has been frozen in time since more than 5,000 workers were made redundant.

MG Rover collapsed in 2005, and now photos have emerged from inside its famous Longbridge plant in Birmingham more than a decade on.

Personal items have been abandoned in offices and there are still body shells of the Rover 75 on the production lines.

A photographer, who goes by the name Dab Hand, said it was a 'privilege' to see inside the factory which opened in 1905.

The urban explorer said: "It was completely untouched.

"To think thousands of people used to work there, and it's like it's been frozen in time.

"There were still body shells of cars on the tracks, newspapers from 2009 and personal things people had left in offices.

"I thought everything had been scrapped or sold off, but it had just been left.

"It was quite sad but also a privilege to see, as Rover was a massive employer in its day."

The images are a sharp contrast to the bustling pictures from the 1980s.

In its heyday, the plant employed 25,000 workers.

There are now around 300 workers left in Longbridge, and in recent weeks Shanghai Automotive Industry Corporation – who bought out MG Rover – confirmed it was now stopping assembly and moving everything to China.

With the stopping of assembly, 25 factory staff will lose their jobs.

They will be the last employees to have been employed to construct vehicles at the plant.

The photographer added: "It was so quiet in there.

"When a pigeon flew from the roof it echoed all around the building."

MEMORY LANE

By David Cosgrove



The most recent manufacturing activity at the Longbridge site



The production line of Minis seen in its heyday



Boxes with the MG Rover Group logo on them, strewn about the empty Longbridge plant

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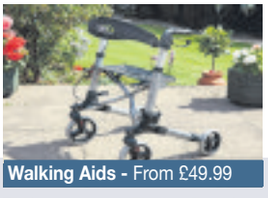




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Paralympics star at old school to receive honour

PARALYMPIC tennis ace Jordanne Whiley returned to her old school to be presented with the freedom of Dudley borough.

The wheelchair tennis star was awarded the honour at St Margaret's at Hasbury Church of England Primary School in Halesowen, where her mother Julie works.

Jordanne, aged 24, received a scroll from the mayor of Dudley confirming she is now a freewoman of the borough.

She recently returned from the Rio Games with a bronze medal and last month received an honorary degree from the University of Wolverhampton in recognition of her achievements.

Jordanne said it was 'amazing' to receive freewoman status at her old school, adding: "It has been my favourite day because the kids sang and told me how I'd inspired them. It means so much. I never expected to get anything like this, and to have it here at my old school is really nice.

Memories

"I could choose where I had it, and I just really wanted it here because I have good memories at this school. A lot of the staff are still the same. I just really love it here."

Before being given the scroll and a symbolic glass tennis ball by Mayor of Dudley Councillor Mohammed Hanif, Jordanne enjoyed a special assembly that saw pupils sing for her and give a presentation on her life and achievements as a Grand Slam winner.

Among the spectators at the presentation was the sportswoman's proud mother, who said: "The children are always asking me about her, so this has been great for her and for them to come back here. It is lovely."

Deputy head Pam Griffiths knew Jordanne when she was a pupil at the school. Mrs Griffiths said: "We are so proud of her. I tell the children 'Jordanne sat in that seat' and it inspires them and makes them realise that if you have a dream you can achieve it, like she has."

Asked what she intended to do with her freedom of the borough, which means that she can now have sheep to graze at Coronation Gardens in Dudley and herd them through the town, Jordanne joked: "My dog does look like a tiny little lamb though so maybe I could just dress him up and herd him."



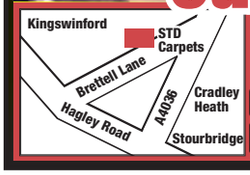
Jordanne Whiley is presented with the Freedom of Dudley Borough by Mayor Coun-

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www.qualitykitchenmakeoversltd.co.uk FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL

Violent pub branded most dangerous will stay shut

A TROUBLED Dudley pub named by a senior police officer as the most dangerous in the West Midlands will stay shut after an attempt to have the decision overturned failed.

The Earl of Dudley Arms on Wellington Road has been closed since Christmas after police said it had become a 'stronghold' for a gang. The pub was the scene of several violent attacks, including a stabbing.

Its licence was revoked by Dudley Council in February. The pub's owners appealed the decision but magistrates in Dudley have now ruled the Earl of Dudley should stay closed.

The bench said the decision to keep the pub closed was 'necessary to protect the public'. The ruling appears to have settled the pub's future for good.

Officers were called to the pub more than 60 times in the two years leading up to its closure. Officers had to deal with a string of attacks, including an attempted murder.

Hospital

Christopher Perkins, aged 23, was left fighting for his life in May 2014 when he was stabbed as violence flared outside the pub. The victim underwent emergency surgery and spent five days in hospital. That was one of a string of violent incidents, which also included a customer being slashed across the face and another being beaten with a pool cue.

At the licensing hearing in February, Detective Inspector Chris Hanson said he knew of no other pub which posed more of a risk to the public.

Dudley's Councillor Ken Finch said the authorities felt they had been left with no option but to keep the pub closed, as per the police recommendations.

He said: "We've had some problems there and I feel it's the right decision. It has been done to protect the public.

"They had the opportunity to sort it out and it got worse."

Talk on hero who saved Jewish lives

MEMBERS of the Black Country Society will be hearing about the exploits of the 'Stourbridge Schindler' Frank Foley.

The Vicar of Claverley, the Rev Gary Ward, will be guest speaker at the society event at the Black Country Living Museum, Dudley, on November 25 at 7.30pm.

The late Mr Foley helped thousands of Jews escape from Nazi Germany by issuing them with passports.

Working as a British intelligence office in pre-war Nazi Germany, he risked his life by breaking many Nazi laws. He entered concentration camps and presented visas to the camp authorities so that Jews could be freed.

After serving in the Second World War he retired to Stourbridge where he lived at Eveson Road in Norton until his death in 1958. He was accorded the status Righteous Amongst the Nations by Israel in 1999, and awarded British Hero of the Holocaust posthumously in 2010.

GP of the Year winner praises teamwork



Eve Hill GP Dr Lucy Martin has won Dudley CCG's GP of the Year award

A GP who is also a hospice medical director has received an award in recognition of her work.

Dr Lucy Martin has been named the GP of the Year at the Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCG) annual awards ceremony for medical professionals in the borough.

Not only does Dr Martin work as a GP at the Eve Hill Medical Practice in Dudley, she is also medical director at the Mary Stevens Hospice, which provides palliative care services to patients and families in the Dudley Borough.

The Eve Hill Medical Practice team also won Practice of the Year 2016.

Dr Martin said: "I'm absolutely delighted to have won this award this year, and also that our practice has won Practice of the Year Award. It's lovely to be recognised for the work we do.

"Of course all the work I am involved with helping patients who are at the end of life could not be done without the dedicated teams at the practice, the CCG, Mary Stevens Hospice and Dudley Group of Hospitals, who work together with me to make things happen.

"My wonderfully supportive husband, family and friends are part of that too.

"It's a real honour and I'd like to thank everyone who contributed to this special recognition."

To find out more about the work of the Mary Stevens Hospice, visit www.marystevenshospice.co.uk website.

Dummy prank sparked major emergency

A LIFE-SIZED dummy left in the middle of a Black Country road has been criticised for wasting emergency services' time as they raced to the scene in the belief an accident had occurred.

Pranksters had smeared ketchup next to the body, which was left in North Road, Tipton at 5.05am on Wednesday in an apparent attempt to recreate the scene of a crash.

The hoax has been blasted by police, who dashed to the street alongside colleagues from the ambulance service.

The dummy was dressed in a hoodie, with a jacket and ripped jeans.

Ketchup was splashed next to the dummy to make it look like blood was pouring from a head wound.

Chief Inspector Jack Hadley, from West Midlands Police, criticised whoever had left it for wasting emergency services' time.

He wrote: "Someone has found it funny to place this in the road and had emergency services racing towards thinking it was a serious incident!"

"Numerous ambulances and police resources, including an armed response vehicle, attended the scene on blue lights."

"Thankfully it wasn't something awful but it certainly wasted a huge amount of resource time."

Minor injuries for two drivers in crash

TWO drivers suffered minor injuries during a crash in a Brierley Hill street on Friday night. The men were treated for minor injuries by ambulance staff after the crash in Wallows Road. Both male drivers had managed to get out of their vehicles.

In a separate crash, a car had collided with a garden wall on the Northway in Sedgley, at around 8.45am on Sunday. No one was reported injured.

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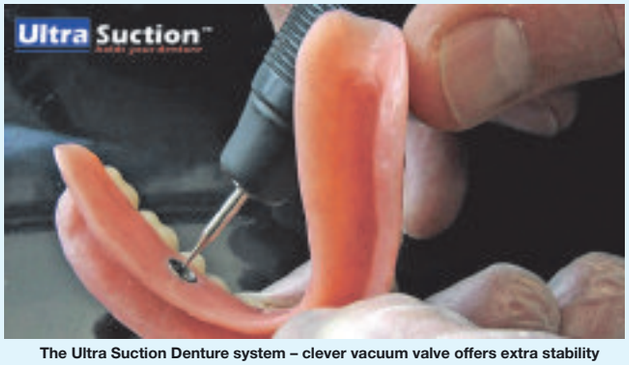
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The Ultra Suction Denture system – clever vacuum valve offers extra stability

Five years on – living with the Ultra Suction Solution

AFRAID to laugh in public and perpetually having trouble eating, Jenny admits she left it far too long before sorting out some new dentures.

Jenny (not her real name) was afraid to laugh in public and tried to mask the problems with her false teeth by using copious amounts of fixative.

"In the end it was ridiculous, I was using so much on the lower denture, but every time I ate food the denture would become loose. I was fighting a losing battle; all the fixative would be gone by the end of the meal," she recalls.

'Stickability'

Aware that things were only going to get worse, she found her way to the Denture Clinic and booked in to see Practice Principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng).

"Dentures have to work incredibly hard and if there's friction on the soft tissues chewing efficiency is massively decreased," says Steven.

Jenny takes up the story: "I wear full dentures and the lower was particularly troublesome and would move about no matter what food I ate.

"It was hopeless really. Chewing crusty bread, eating apples and steaks were totally out of the question. I really didn't want to go through the surgical procedure of having an implant retained denture and was offered what was then the new Suction Dentures."

It's now been five years since the prescription was made in the Denture Clinic's on-site laboratory.

"One of the first patients we prescribed the non-invasive Ultra Suction Dentures that hit the UK market from New Zealand, 'Jenny' is still enjoying excellent outcomes from the system."

Extolling their virtues, Jenny adds: "I am perfectly happy with the result and I now never have to think about my teeth."

How do they work? A small diaphragm seals off a one-way valve under bite pressure, creating a 'sucking' vacuum between the denture and gums. The result is a better fit to the soft tissues and improved resistance to any dislodging forces created by eating and speaking. The device can be mounted in upper or lower dentures.

The Ultra Suction Denture system is not suitable for everyone, but for those with the right kind of gum contours, a great option to add another level of 'stickability'.

Secure, comfortable and natural looking, these prosthetics attract the biggest number of inquiries at the Denture Clinic.

FOR some it's the final chance of a solution, desperate for help as too many failing teeth have eroded confidence and any quality of life. Others have come at their wits' end with unstable dentures and still more as referrals from other practitioners. How ever they arrive at Dudley's North Street Dental and Implant Clinic, central to many of their solutions is this man (right) dental implant surgeon Dr Owain Rees BDS DGDP (UK) Dip Imp Dent (UCL).



IT'S hard to imagine after losing natural teeth, things could ever be quite the same again. Even the loss of a single tooth is acknowledged as a serious life event.

And for most, with the loss of native teeth comes an emotional hurdle – now recognised as a mourning process. In a recent edition of the British Dental Nurses' Journal it highlights the stages of bereavement.

We all know that tooth loss can impact on our choices of food and the ability to chew properly. But less 'visible' and perhaps more significant, is the way teeth can compromise social interaction. Losing teeth and having teeth that are failing can stop us living life spontaneously.

Although recent figures suggest oral health is improving, millions of UK adults suffer with tooth loss. It can be embarrassing, painful and erode self-esteem.

Practice Principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) says: "We see almost on a weekly basis in our clinics that failing teeth – both natural and dentures – can have a hugely corrosive effect on lifestyles."

Solutions without using dental implants have been around for a long time – indeed, bridges, full dentures and partial dentures still offer excellent options.

Adds Steven: "If the patient is suitable, and few are not, dental implants whether for single or multiple teeth replacement, or to replace a complete arch of teeth, can offer long-term solutions and generally very predictable clinical outcomes."

Surgical skills

For those with denture stabilisation issues, implants can provide secure anchor points with press-stud like abutments that are guaranteed to hold an over-denture in place.

"Once dentures lose their initial harmonious fit, the process of bone erosion beneath the gums is accelerated as the prosthetic is perpetually dislodged by the processes of speaking and eating. Over time the problems of sore spots and the denture succumbing to the forces created in the mouth by chewing and speaking become more acute.

"Our implant retained dentures have a bite comparable to natural teeth. look stunning, appear as natural teeth and deliver the patient a dental therapy where we can categorically guarantee an end to denture stabilisation issues," adds Steven.

All denture prescriptions at the clinic are hand-crafted on site in the laboratory using only premium quality materials and state-of-the art production.

With more than 25 years' experience placing implants, Owain was in the vanguard of UK implant therapy while working as a house officer in oral surgery at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

Adds Steven: "We're incredibly fortunate to have someone of Owain's professional stature working with us. He's innovative, accessible, everything you'd expect of a dentist with such advanced surgical skills . . . and a genuinely nice guy to meet."

Complex surgical cases, general dentistry and not least, the patients who require full mouth restorations, fall under his clinical remit.

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Former midwife's engaging smile is reborn

MEETING Vicki Ball is all about her smiles – lots of them. She's generous with her compliments, can't wait for her next holiday adventure and has the most infectious of laughs.

Her company is light and she's gushing with the praise about her new look.

A retired community midwife who was based at the former Wordsley Hospital, the bubbly 60-something-year-old is quick to affirm: "I love my new teeth and they look natural, don't they?"

Adding: "You can't tell they're not my own," Vicki admits her smile has not always been her favourite attribute.

"I've always had trouble with my teeth; even as a young girl they crumbled and my gums used to bleed. Even though I was diligent about looking after them, they still let me down," she adds.

Unstable

Two years ago, Vicki finally lost her remaining teeth. "I really don't know why my teeth were so bad, but I was the youngest of eight children and I understand my mother's priorities did not include teaching me how to brush my teeth. She had more pressing priorities of how she was going to put food on the table," Vicki recalls.

A teenager by the time she had her fist tooth brush, she is convinced she couldn't have done more to save her teeth.

"For the last 18 months I've put up with ill-fitting and badly made dentures. My gums were always sore and the bottom denture was unstable.

"My top teeth I could secure with a fixative, but for the bottom it was a waste of time – as soon as I had anything to eat the stability was over," says Vicki.



New smile – Vicky Ball

Her diet became restricted, avoiding beef and crispy fruits like apples.

Frustrated by the appearance and function of her teeth – they seemed to be set too far back, Vicky says – she started researching her options.

"I'd grown tired of living my life around my teeth. I never really stopped going out, but when I did, I was always thinking ahead where I could go to take my teeth out. They were just so uncomfortable," she said.

A self-confessed lover of travel overseas – "it's my hobby" – Vicki saw an article in her local newspaper about Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) and his work at the Denture Clinic.

"I'd seen a piece about suction dentures and implant retained dentures and there seemed to be a solution for me," she says.

After seeing Steven and implant surgeon Dr Owain Rees BDS, DGDP (UK), Dip Imp Dent (UCL), Vicki's treatment included two implants to stabilise a lower over denture and the prescribing of high quality traditional upper dentures to help support her facial features. Says Vicki,"From start to finish it took 14 weeks, but it was worth the wait. When I first saw my teeth in the mirror, I thought they looked just like real teeth and . . . they feel like my own teeth."

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It could be longer than you think before you down tools



Retirees are faced with a wide range of options these days, with much to be considered

How has EU vote affected your retirement plans?

By Vicky Shaw

HOW would you feel about working for longer than you had planned?

Are you itching to consign your work clothes to the back of the wardrobe for good – or would you miss your colleagues, the challenge of the job and a regular wage coming in?

The EU referendum vote has prompted many people approaching retirement to look again at their decisions, it has been suggested.

Research has found nearly one in three people approaching retirement are considering changing their financial plans following the vote to leave the EU.

Around 30 per cent of 55 to 64-year-olds think they will have to make new arrangements – and 37 per cent of these people may delay retirement until the economic picture becomes clearer, Prudential found.

With around half a million people retiring across the UK each year, this could equate to 150,000 of these people changing their financial plans and 55,500 possibly pushing back their retirement.

Recent falls in annuity rates may also be partly behind some people's decisions to go back to the drawing board. When many people retire, they use their pension pot to buy an annuity, which can give them a fixed income for the rest of their retirement.

Planning

However, the pension freedoms introduced in 2015 mean retirees are no longer required to buy an annuity and they generally have a wider range of options.

Prudential's research, carried out during the week after the referendum vote, also found that across different age groups generally, one in five (20 per cent) people think they will need to change their retirement planning and, of these, more than half (51 per cent) think they may retire later.

There's also some evidence that people will look to ramp up their savings amid the uncertainty.

One in six (16 per cent) people surveyed plan to increase their savings, while 58 per cent will continue to save the same amounts – despite low interest rates.

A fifth (20 per cent) also plan to seek financial advice.

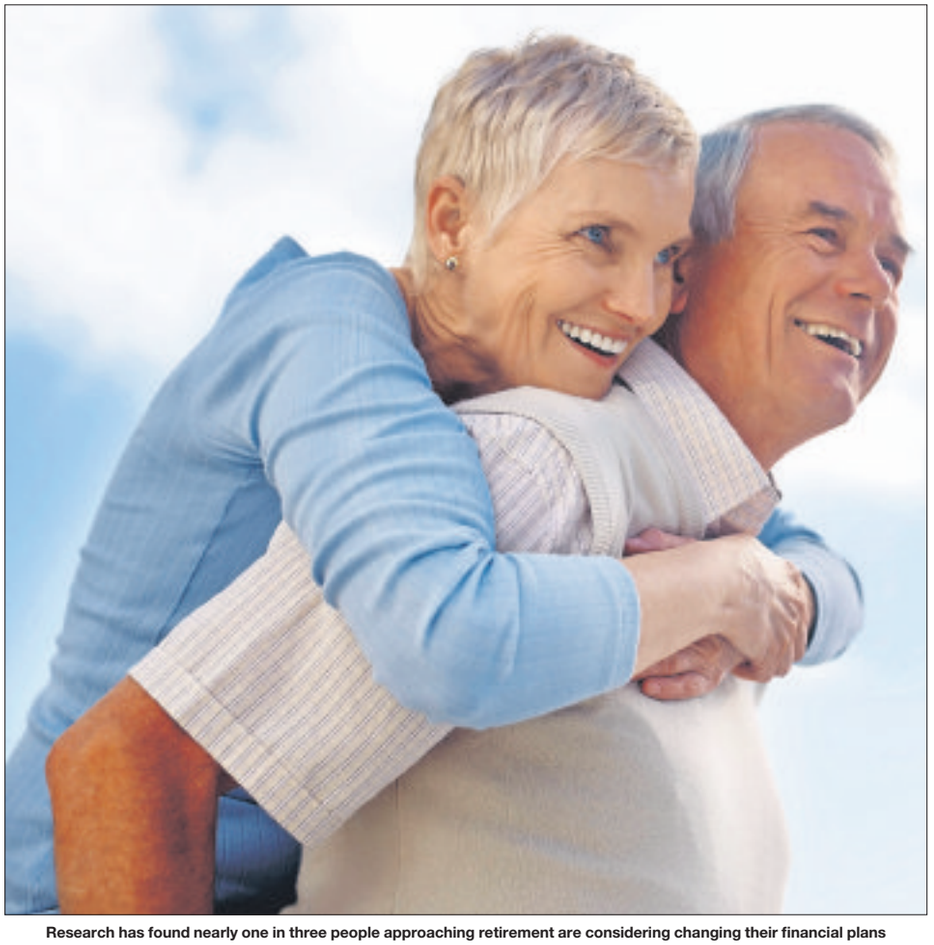
Prudential's survey of more than 700 people across the UK also found 36 per cent are concerned about the property market.

Many people, including buy-to-let investors, may be pinning their hopes on the value in their property to help finance their retirement.

And a recent report from Royal London suggested as many as three million working age Britons are relying on their home to fund their retirement – by downsizing to a smaller property.

However, according to the Centre for Economics and Business Research (Cebr), the average value of a UK home is still expected to be around £40,000 more in five years' time, according to its projections.

Low interest rates also mean that many people are getting feeble returns on their savings, which could also prompt some to consider working for longer.



Research has found nearly one in three people approaching retirement are considering changing their financial plans

So how can those approaching retirement improve their position in the current economic uncertainty?

Vince Smith-Hughes, Prudential's saving and retirement expert, says many people may well be thinking about their savings and pensions a bit more.

Firstly, he suggests getting an idea of how much money you have and tracking down any "lost" pensions from previous jobs.

Speaking to the Government-backed Pension Wise service could also be a good step.

Smith-Hughes says a financial adviser will also be able to offer help in looking at the best way to draw an income.

For many, working for longer is already a reality.

Employer

As many as 1.2 million people who are aged 65-plus are still in employment, according to Office for National Statistics (ONS) figures.

Smith-Hughes says: "There are a lot of people now considering working past what would have been considered their state pension age. That's due to a combination of things. Some of them are looking at going part-time, perhaps with the same employer, some of them are looking at different employers.

"Some of them are even looking at starting up a business when they get to their state pension age.

"We talk about retirement these days, and we have this idea that one day people are working five days a week, the next day they're retired – it doesn't really happen that way."

Cycling to work has so many benefits...

TEMPTED to join the growing number of two-wheeled commuters?

This week saw the return of Cycle to Work Day, which aims to encourage thousands of people to ditch the car/train/bus for a two-wheeled commute.

Cycling to work won't be practical for everybody, of course. But if it is a viable option – and the only thing really holding you back is confidence or mustering up the motivation – then this could be the ideal time to give it a go.

In partnership with a range of organisations, including British Cycling, Cyclescheme and Sustrans, Cycle to Work Day is ultimately a celebration of 'everyday cycling' – something Team GB stars Laura Trott and Jason Kenny, along with a host of other Olympic talents, recently wrote to Theresa May about, calling for greater investment in encouraging 'everyday cycling'.

The 'best way', they said, 'to honour the achievements of our athletes would be a legacy of everyday cycling in this country – a place where cycling is the choice form of transport for people to get around in their daily lives'.



Currently, around 741,000 people in the UK cycle to work regularly, a figure that's gradually been growing.

Fancy joining them?

Here are five reasons to ride your bike to work...

1. It will save you money

Aside from the cost of your bike, and the odd bit of maintenance here and there, cycling by bike is free. If you're somebody who usually drives or gets the train to work, you could be 'wheelie' on your way to saving a fortune.

2. It keeps you active

You don't have to be racing around a track for it to count as exercise; just as walking is beneficial for your health, so too is a gentle, leisurely-paced bike ride. In terms of ticking those physically active targets, for staying fit and warding off future diseases, the important thing is that you're moving your body - regularly.

3. It's better for the environment

Bikes don't emit any nasty fumes. Very big tick. And they're usually built to last and can be repaired. Another big green tick. Good news all round.

4. It's invigorating

We can all benefit from getting those endorphins pumping, that natural high that comes from getting moving. While cycling can be relaxing, it also requires a degree of focus which, combined with the thrill of pedalling along, can add up to an invigorating start to the day.

5. It's a confidence boost



Cycling, especially on roads, can be quite scary at first. But overcoming such obstacles can be incredibly rewarding and a huge confidence boost. Remember, there are organisations and people out there who want to help you find safe, comfortable cycle routes, and there are lots (including free) cycle confidence courses all over the UK. Google what's available in your area, and check out sites like www.sustrans.org.uk and www.cyclinguk.org.

TRIED AND TESTED

Three of the best backpacks for cycle commuters

Thule Pack 'n Pedal Commuter Backpack, £125 (www.thule.com)

Not cheap, but this pleasingly stylish and well-made backpack's worth every penny and will take care of all your cycle-commuter needs. It's roomy and cleverly designed to tuck in all your work kit, with a removable padded sleeve for laptops or tablets, lots of handy pockets to keep essentials (phones, keys, glasses...) safe and easy to find, comes with a hi-vis rain cover and helmet storage system, and features an ultra-comfy padded back.

Proviz REFLECT360 Rucksack, £69.99 (www.provizsports.com)

Alongside their range of ultra-reflective jackets, Proviz makes backpacks too. This 30L bag's designed to sit snug and comfy close to the body, has mesh side pockets and a small zipped front packet alongside the main compartment, plus there's a light loop and it promises to be highly water resistant.

Yellowstone Compact Backpack, £9.99 (Halfords.com)

If you're after something not too big and bulky that won't break the bank, you can't go wrong with this fuss-free 25L backpack.

Despite the bargain price tag, it's durable, features comfy, padded straps and has an internal compartment for laptops.

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Kedleston Country House Hotel – elegance a priority



One of the rooms at Kedleston Coutry House Hotel



High tea at Lisa Jean

Derby has it all for a perfect weekend

CLIMBING the winding and narrow 189 steps of Derby Cathedral tower my breath was getting shallower and shallower. With a few stops on the way we eventually got to the top of the 212ft tower.

And what a sight to behold! We could see over the whole of Derby with The Silk Mill, museum and art gallery, market hall and theatre to name just a few.

And with it being a clear day you could also see Derby's four surrounding counties.

The cathedral has the oldest set of 10 bells in the country with one of them cast in the reign of Henry VIII.

Dr Alex Rock was our more than qualified guide for the tour.

With many fond memories of his hometown Dudley he fell in love with Derby when he arrived as a student.

And having spent a weekend in the city, we shared his enthusiasm.

Lunch had been at the Silk Mill Ale and Cider House.

Unassuming from the front, it was completely inviting inside with its traditional bar and British retro-ish decor with clocks lining the walls.

Lunch was a sharing board – British Picnic.

We had our own indoor picnic with sage & onion sausage rolls, radish salad, home baked ham, potato and red onion salad, Blue Vinney stilton, Wookey hole cheddar, pork pie, pickled celery, grapes and crusty bread. It was spectacular.

Derby was so eclectic, with its mix of traditional and modern buildings.

We pottered around and visited the Cathedral Quarter with its independent shops and then you had your modern day shopping centres.

In the Cathedral Quarter there is the traditional Bennetts department store and what could be more traditional than High Tea at Lisa Jean – a brasserie.

Sat in a mezzanine above the shop we had a wonderful array of sandwiches, vol au vents – including king prawn Marie Rose and wild mushroom & tarragon.

HOLIDAYS

By Lisa Bailey

We were then transported from the buzz of the city to the countryside – Kedleston Country House Hotel, which is about 15 minutes from the city.

Elegance was the top of its list when the Derby Brewing Co. renovated the hotel in partnership with Plum and Ashby last year.

It has just five rooms, but they are stunning – they have a Georgian air with a contemporary feel. All rooms are decorated in soothing greys and blues.

Steeped in history – the inn was designed by famous architect Robert Adam for Sir Nathaniel Curzon and its Georgian roots were there for all to see with its grand dining room, airy orangery and gardens with croquet.

Our room for the night was the Scarsdale Suite, which overlooked the countryside and had a separate lounge area with mini bar, stocking wines, gin and local ales.

The Kedleston prides itself on local produce and the food was delicious with me going for pan fried sea bass and Neil steak.

Kedleston Country House obviously puts customers as its number one priority which was evident from the service during our stay. The following morning we went down for breakfast which was continental breakfast served on tiered plates – all very first class again. We could have chosen from cooked breakfast.

As much as we wanted to while away more hours at the hotel, we had a date at Kedleston Hall, which was created by Sir Nathaniel and again designed by Robert Adam, but obviously on a much larger scale.

This 18th century mansion was most impressive as we drove up the extensive driveway over the bridge to the main house.

From the buzz of the city to the calm of the countryside, Derby and its surrounding area has it all for a perfect weekend.



You can walk all 189 steps to the top of Derby Cathedral

Travellers tell of their worldwide adventures

TRAVELLING around the world to exotic places seems to be the new university for many young people these days.

With hundreds of them filling up their backpacks and heading off in different directions, two best friends who have done the whole thing talk about their experiences.

Rewind to January 28, this year, when fresh-faced students Beth Martin and Rosa Jackson, both aged 19 and from Shropshire, left Stanstead airport in search of new horizons. They made the decision to take a gap year to explore Asia before heading off to university earlier this month. Their six-month adventure took in numerous destinations including India, Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia. We started in Dubai, where we stayed for three days," Beth explains, "then we travelled across to India, and stayed in the town of Faridabad, just outside of Delhi."



Here, they stayed with a host family while volunteering at a local slum school for two weeks, working with and teaching the children.

Rosa tells us that 'these particular children live in slums where education is not a given and many would consequently work on the streets to make a living'.

Both girls agreed how lucky they were to have had the education they did: "We 100 per cent take education for granted back home. The kids were so excited to learn and wanted to do different things. They all had such big dreams and were so enthusiastic."

"We brought in loads of crayons and arts and crafts and we did dancing with the children – we made it fun, a place where they could laugh."

Beth explains how this particular experience 'completely changes your outlook on life'. They travelled half way across the world to be there, but the girls said most of the children they taught will never leave Faridabad.

After their time spent in the slum school, which they found an intensely rewarding, if not tough, experience, they moved on to exploring India's sights and cities. "We saw the Taj Mahal, and it was amazing. In all the pictures we took it doesn't even look real, it is so crazy to comprehend that they built it so long ago," Rosa tells us.



Their next stop was Sri Lanka and then Cambodia. Both girls understand the shocking stories related to each country, such as the Boxing Day tsunami in 2004 and the violent history of the killing fields in Phnom Penh.

Malaysia and Borneo were next up for the keen travellers. In Borneo they went to the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre. Beth explains: "They take in orphaned orangutans – they weren't in cages, they were in a big reserve where they could interact with people so it wouldn't be so different for them when they went back into the wild."

"We flew into Bangkok next, which is like the backpacking central for all of Asia. It is a place where you're always meeting people of your own age. We did the full moon party on the beach which gets thousands and thousands of people and it is crazy."

Beth is keen to point out that they weren't just there to party but it was something they wanted to experience. "There's obviously so much more to Thailand than partying, but it's something that brings everyone together – the full moon party will be on every backpacker's must-see list."

Rosa also recalls their time spent at Chiang Mai at an elephant jungle sanctuary: "When you go to Thailand, a lot of people ride elephants or go to see chained up ones, but at this place they were all free to walk about. We had to wear these special ponchos that people wore every day when they visited so that the elephants would never be scared of all these new people. It was very ethical."

In Vietnam, the girls came to grips with the country's tragic history as they visited the War Remnants Museum.

Both girls got two jobs and saved up all their money in order to go on their trip of a lifetime.

Beth states: "I've met so many people I consider really good friends now – I could go to America, Australia, anywhere in Europe and I would have friends to visit."

Charlotte Bentley

Hotel had me blissfully lost in a Dutch time warp



Amsterdam's Pulitzer Hotel

IT'S easy to get lost in Amsterdam, ambling along a grid of peaceful canals straddled by bridges fading into infinity. But rarely is the route from hotel lobby to bedroom such a mission.

It's taken me several attempts to navigate the labyrinthine corridors of the city's Pulitzer Hotel, a property made up of 25 Golden Age canal houses, all connected to make a sumptuous five-star maze. In August, the popular property reopened following a major two-stage renovation, positioning it as one of the most exciting hotels in the Dutch city; an additional 145 guest rooms have been bolted to the original 80, and an inner courtyard garden provides a contemplative escape from jangling bike bells that typically soundtrack a city stroll.

Convenience and comfort have been drawing curious visitors for the past 45 years, but it's the hotel's colourful, character-filled past that will really appeal to future guests.

Merchants, musicians, art dealers and even pals of Rembrandt have swanned through the 400-year-old corridors, and their traces are evidently reflected in the Pulitzer's charming 'old meets new' design. In the Art Collector's suite, flamboyant, modern pieces include a golden stool sculpted as a cupped palm and a tongue-in-cheek re-imagining of Frans Hals' The Last Supper; in a Music Suite, one wall is decorated with rows of brass trumpets. Both rooms have private access to the canals, and although interior decoration is a riot of wacky furnishings, grand exteriors have been faithfully restored. Standard seems an unfair term to describe my own room, decorated in the deep blues and robust greys that could easily have been brushed directly from Rembrandt's palette. A triangular 'sail ship' bedstead and portholes linking bathroom to bedroom cleverly play with a nautical theme – a reminder we're never far from the water. Creative director Jacu Strauss claims he slept in every room to determine its appropriate personality and design, and he's given each individually shaped space its own accent.

The neighbouring canal-facing bar is darker and more conspiratorial, and designer drinks include a fermented pineapple cocktail presented on a bed of hay.

By Sarah Marshall

Now Kaiser Chiefs hit the dancefloor

ALBUMS

by Leon Burakowski

THE Kaiser Chiefs started out as rabble-rousing rockers, then morphed into a crowd pleasing pop-rock outfit as the Leeds band's lead singer Ricky Wilson became a family favourite via The Voice.



Kaiser Chiefs blend their pop-rock sound with dance beats on Stay Together

They regularly turn in good, if patchy, LPs but sixth album **Stay Together** takes them to a new level by blending their radio friendly rock sound with dance beats. Lead single Parachute fuses Coldplay-like anthemic rock with bouncy Euro disco catchiness.

There is a lyrical theme of dealing with domesticity and new responsibilities that will strike a chord with many 30somethings. Wilson also turns in some of his best vocal performances on songs like We Stay Together and new single Hole In My Soul, which should get thousands singing along at Barclaycard Arena on February 25.

Fans of the original Celtic soul brother will be delighted that **Van Morrison** has released his 36th album, his first of mostly original material in four years, entitled **Keep Me Singing**.

It's a slick and soulful affair with polished jazz and blues numbers. Every Time I See a River has Morrison collaborating with lyricist Don Black whilst closing instrumental Caledonian Swing features Morrison on piano and saxophone. Highlights include Out In The Cold Again, a gorgeous production in which Morrison muses over tinkling piano, and the positively jaunty Look Beyond The Hill.

LA indie rock favourites **Warpaint** find a new focus on **Heads Up**, an album that's a glorious blend of warped pop, Cure-like goth moods and shoegazer guitar squalls propelled by funky rhythms from bassist Jenny Lee Lindberg and drummer Stella Mozgawa. Singers Emily Kokal and Theresa Wayman combine superbly, especially on the crunchy, edgy By Your Side, and on reverb rich The Stall.

Exeter rock trio **Black Foxxes** sometimes recall fellow Devonians Muse with their guitar bashing swagger and vocal histrionics from singer and guitarist Mark Holley on their debut album **I'm Not Well**. Check them out if you like Placebo. They play the Sunflower Lounge in Birmingham on October 23.

From Australia's Blue Mountains, singer-songwriter **Julia Jacklin** could appeal to fans of country-flavoured Americana and singers like Ren Harvieu and the uber-cool Lana Del Rey. Check out rocking new single Coming Of Age or the passionate Roy Orbison-like Leadlight from her debut album **Don't Let The Kids Win**. On third album **Dusk**, London duo Jack Cooper and James Hoare, under band name **Ultimate Painting**, deliver a delicious laconic take on jangly US guitar rock (think Byrds, Television). Key tracks include A Portrait Of Jason with its twang and the enigmatic Skippool Creek.

Only 14 months since his Mercury Music Prize nominated debut Architect, Scottish classically trained musician **C Duncan** returns with his second album. Architect was one of my favourite albums of 2016, a homemade masterpiece of gorgeous harmonious layers of melodic pop. **The Midnight Sun**, again featuring one of Chris Duncan's paintings on the cover, isn't as instantly appealing, though equally rich in mellifluous atmosphere. It is a more melancholy affair which blends his vocals into the velvet wall of sound, more akin to Clannad than Brian Wilson.

The Pixies are back with their second album since 91's classic Trompe le Monde, also the second since a semi-reunion after the departure of bassist Kim Deal. **Head Carrier** is familiar blend of hard riffs, inscrutable lyrics and pop melodies, but lacking some of the energy and unexpected twists that inspired a generation of guitar bands. Paz Lenchantin fits in nicely as bassist and singer on All I Think About Now, while Joey Santiago and Black Francis whip up a storm on Classic Masher, Oona and Um Chagga Lagga. Catch them at Birmingham O2 Academy on December 8.

Brain Dump is no insult to comic Noble



Comedian Ross Noble took a DVD critique and ran with it for his latest tour, including forthcoming gigs in Birmingham

WE'RE laughing before we even start.

Ross Noble's publicist passes the comedian the telephone after issuing me with strict instructions he should be off the phone at an appointed time so that he can be interviewed on radio. So when Ross picks up the phone, I make a joke of it.

"Ross Noble, you only have so many minutes to tell us all about Brain Dump and answer 13 other questions. Start."

He laughs. And so do I. And then he starts to explain his tour, which is in Birmingham for two nights at the New Alexandra Theatre on October 17 and 18. The title is classic Noble. It's turning a negative into a positive through his surreal, stream-on-conscious, dyslexic brain.

"Brain Dump does exactly what it say on the tin. Whatever is in my head, I'm dumping it out there. It came about after somebody left a review on Amazon for one of my DVDs.

Massive

"There were loads of really good reviews and then there was one negative from a person who obviously didn't like my style. He would obviously have enjoyed a more linear style of comedy. He was incensed by my routine, which is fine, you know, not everyone's brain works in the same way and with my stuff you need to have a certain mindset for it to appeal.

"This person had basically expected something different and taken exception when it wasn't. I think they were hoping for a stream of well thought-out one-liners but that's not what I do.

"So they wrote on Amazon that the DVD was like a big, massive brain dump. And though they were trying to be critical, I thought it was quite good. What was intended as a put-down was taken as a compliment. So I decided to run with it."

Andy Richardson

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Give wildlife helping hand as winter approaches

WHILE homeowners are looking forward to spending a cosy autumn in the warmth of their homes, a housebuilder is asking them to spare a thought for the wild creatures facing a cold few months outside.

Taylor Wimpey teamed up with the Wildlife Trusts earlier this year, giving advice to residents to help them make their gardens nature-friendly during the spring and summer – and is now offering a host of helpful hints and tips to give wildlife a helping hand as winter approaches and the temperature drops.

Birds, bats, frogs, hedgehogs and insects all need to find a welcoming winter retreat – and here's how homeowners can do their bit:

● Be an early bird: You might think the ideal time to put up nest-boxes would be spring, but it's actually early winter. Blue tits and great tits will begin looking for nest sites in late winter so get your box up early.



● Feeding time: Whether you make your own bird feeder or buy one, feeding garden birds in winter can make a real difference to their survival. In the coldest weather fat balls are a great source of food and providing foods such as sunflower seeds will ensure your garden is popular with greenfinches and chaffinches as well as blue tits, great tits and – if you are lucky – coal and marsh tits. If you put the feeders near a house window you can enjoy bird-watching from the comfort of your home!

● Hedge your bets: Planting trees or hedge plants such as hawthorn, rowan and holly will provide berries for birds in winter as well as places to nest in the spring. Winter is the best time for planting, although you need to choose a day when the ground is not frozen!

● Heaps of help: A log pile or a compost heap is also a good option – hedgehogs love places like this in winter. These structures need to be maintained to make them appealing and safe, but be extra careful when clearing up – you never know if a pile of autumn leaves is hiding something vulnerable. Compost heaps are also good at generating the types of insect that bats like.

● Hotel hideaways: Hibernating animals need somewhere sheltered where they won't be disturbed all winter. Check out the Wildlife Trusts' activity sheets at www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/activity-sheets. These include advice on making a hibernaculum, an insect hotel, or other hidey holes for wildlife – mostly from household odds and ends.



● Bats love bugs: Grow plants with flowers that are likely to attract moths and other night-flying insects as this will increase the food supply for bats (white or pale coloured flowers are more likely to be seen by nocturnal insects) – and be more tolerant of bugs in general! A few caterpillars will not cause much damage but they will turn into a juicy meal for a bat.

● Give a bat a home: Bat boxes can be purchased from garden centres or made from unplanned wood that has not been treated with wood preservatives. Choose locations (tree trunks or walls of buildings) with a sunny southerly or westerly aspect and avoid placing boxes above doors or windows, or anywhere that the bats might be disturbed by people or pets.

● Peace, man: Be aware of the sorts of places that bats use as shelter – dark places, such as in hollow trees, roof spaces, under tiles and soffits, loose bark on trees, or in splits in the trunks and branches of trees – and do not disturb them.

Find out more at www.wildlifetrusts.org/how-you-can-help/wildlife-gardening.

Carl Cooke, regional sales and marketing director for Taylor Wimpey, says: "With the colder months fast approaching there's plenty homeowners can do to help the wildlife on their doorstep.

"By following a few of our handy hints, homeowners can look forward to observing the winter visitors to their gardens and also enjoy the satisfaction of knowing they're helping to protect the natural environment in which they live. As a responsible housebuilder, we're delighted to be working with the Wildlife Trusts as part of our commitment to enhancing the wildlife habitats where we work."

Janel Fone, director of marketing and development at The Wildlife Trusts, says: "Winter is a tough time for wildlife, but nature-friendly gardening can give wildlife a hand through the colder months.

"Although tempting, avoid over-tidying your garden this autumn – you'll be amazed how useful dead vegetation can be for wildlife. Nature is incredibly adaptable and resilient; insects can find homes in old plant stems and hungry birds feed on dead seed heads."



Plumbago flowers in dense clusters from summer to late autumn

This evergreen shrub will flower late into the season

BEST OF THE BUNCH - Plumbago

This frost-tender, scrambling or climbing evergreen shrub bears long-tubed flat flowers in dense clusters from summer to late autumn. The bright matt-green leaves provide the perfect foil for the sky-blue, pure white or deep rose-pink flowers and the plants look good for most of the year.

In mild areas, grow plumbago over a pergola or arch, or against a wall. In cooler areas where temperatures fall below 7C (45F), they'll do better in a container in a sheltered, sunny spot and moved under cover in winter. Grow them in fertile, well-drained soil in full sun or in containers of loam-based potting compost, and top-dress or repot in spring. The most popular, P. auriculata, grows up to 6m (20ft), producing flower clusters up to 15cm (6in) across. Tie stems in to support as growth proceeds.

WHAT TO DO THIS WEEK

● Sow sweet peas in pots and overwinter the plants in a cold frame to plant out next spring.

● Continue to water outdoor crops such as tomatoes, beans and courgettes to encourage more fruits to ripen.

● Continue blanching leeks, covering plants with tubes of cardboard or drainpipes.

● Wrap trench varieties of celery with newspaper and draw earth up around the stems to blanch them ready for cutting in late autumn.

● Cut down faded and dying flower stems from border perennials, tidying up plants.

● Plant tubers of anemone 'De Caen' and 'Saint Brigid' at intervals, to extend their flowering next spring.

● Plant evergreen shrubs or hedging plants while the soil is still warm enough to help them establish before winter.

● Lift and divide congested clumps of perennials, replanting healthy segments of new growth.

● Take hardwood cuttings from roses.

● Continue pruning peaches to remove all shoots that have carried fruit, then tie in new shoots to replace them.

● Where grass is thin, over-seed with a suitable grass seed mixture.

● Make sure greenhouse heaters are in good working order.

● Order new fruit trees and bushes to plant later this autumn and winter.

All change as trees adapt to the arrival of autumn

ROSS UNDERWOOD



Head Gardener at Hodnet Hall

MY children love the autumn. When I take them out on a bike ride or to walk the dog they adore stopping to pick up leaves, fallen beech mast and the jewel in the crown – conkers!

There are plenty of leaves for them to kick around in already and usually by the time we come home their pockets are stuffed with the treasures that they have collected.

When I think back to the display in spring and early summer it seems such a short time since the chestnuts were in flower and the limes were giving off their intoxicating scent as late as July. Now they are in fruit and it would be easy to talks about autumn fruits, after all this is the season of "mists and mellow fruitfulness".

As I walk around with my kids it is the different shapes of the leaves that catch my attention. The leaves that have been pushed into piles or into corners by the wind that my children love to throw around. Those leaves have been with us all year but now that they are turning from their uniform green to multitudinous shades they have come back to the forefront of attention. But why should there be so many different leaf shapes in nature and why do they differ even on the same tree?



Leaves are turning from their uniform green to multitudinous shades and have come back to the forefront of attention

Food

To a plant, leaves are food producing organs. Leaves "absorb" some of the energy in the sunlight that strikes their surfaces and also take in carbon dioxide from the surrounding air in order to run the metabolic process of photosynthesis. This is how plants make their food. The green colour of leaves, in fact, is caused by an abundance of the pigment "chlorophyl" which is the specific chemical agent that acts to capture the sunlight energy needed for photosynthesis. An important "waste product" of photosynthesis is oxygen.

Most leaves can be roughly divided into two broad categories, they are either broad and flat (like oak leaves) or needle-shaped (like pine needles). Both kinds of leaves absorb light and CO2 to make the energy required for growth and both kinds of leaves can serve as food or as habitat for a great variety of other creatures.

The shape of a tree's leaves are in many cases a combination of the ecological history of the tree species going back over thousands of years as well as doing the practical job of supplying the plant with what it needs. This is a delicate balancing act for just as the plant is getting what it needs it needs to avoid becoming too hot or losing too much water through its leaves.

It is important to consider the whole tree and the particular ecological niche or habitat that it occupies. Leaves high in the tree canopy receive a great deal of sunlight. These leaves tend to be smaller in size and tend also to have complex edges and lobes (which enables them to disperse absorbed heat very rapidly). Leaves in the lower tree canopy are more shaded. These lower canopy leaves tend to be larger (more light absorptive surface area) and tend to have reduced lobes and edges. These trends may be observed in comparing the leaves of high canopy trees (like oaks) to the leaves of low canopy trees (like dogwoods). The smaller upper canopy leaves also allow significant amounts of light to pass through the upper canopy in order to keep the lower leaves supplied with sufficient light to allow their continued photosynthesis. When you stand under different trees and look up you can also see different types of arrangements of leaves.



Plenty of leaves to kick around in on autumn walks



Conkers – one of the season's treasures

Some trees like cherries arrange their leaves so that no leaf is shaded by another whilst much taller trees have leaves which are shaded by others above which accounts for them having smaller leaves at the top and larger ones at the bottom.

Needle-shaped leaves don't absorb as much light and don't tend to give off too much water. Trees with needle-shaped leaves are especially well suited to sites that have drier soils and to climates in which the careful conservation of water is an important survival strategy. Needle-shaped leaves also differ from broad leaves in that needles often last for three or four years before falling while broad leaves only "live" for a single growing season. These evergreen needled trees, then, have a great advantage over the deciduous broad leafed trees in that they can get food whilst the deciduous trees cannot.

There's a lot to think about when you take the kids for a walk!

Investment fuels growth at print firm



Print manufacturer Customark in Lye has completed its £465,000 investment programme in space, staff and equipment

THIS year has seen extensive growth for Lye firm Customark with more than £465,000 of investment in space, equipment and staff.

Over an 18-month period Customark has employed an additional 20 new staff and invested in extensive new manufacturing facilities expanding production diversity.

As well as the head office based in Lye, the print specialists also operate from three other sites across the UK including Calne in Wiltshire, Cambridge and Oxford.

The investment has seen the Lye site benefit from three additional roll to roll digital printers as well as investment in a flat-bed digital printer, enabling the capability to print on to most materials, difficult shapes and intricate components.

Machines

Further investments at Lye include three new labelling machines costing a total of £120,000. Calne benefitted in a move to a newly refurbished factory.

Customark was originally founded as a label printing manufacturer, however today its hosst a wealth of printing technologies, producing a vast range of products from industrial labelling to commercial point of sale. Customark offer a wide range of print services including Screen Printing, Pad Printing, Digital and Rotary Flexographic.

Managing director Neil Turner said: "The investment programme has brought a huge amount of production diversity."

Customark owner Greg Lerigo said: "Despite the Brexit vote, we still expect to see a return on our investment, which will allow for further development in staff and the business."

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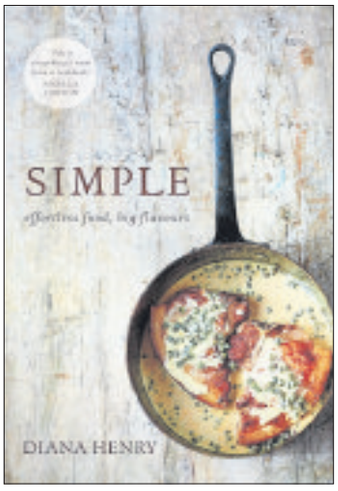
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Diana's latest cook book, Simple, is available now priced £25



Starter or side dish: Cumin-coriander roasted carrots with pomegranate and avocado

Serving up simple but delicious dinner ideas

By Ella Walker

FOOD may be more trendy than ever, but Diana Henry believes we'd all be happier in the kitchen if we remembered cooking's a life skill – not a hobby.

"It's nonsense that people can't cook, complete nonsense," the award-winning food writer practically shouts. "If you like eating stuff and you know a few things, like how long it takes to roast a chicken, or how to put a tray of red peppers in the oven, you could make really good stuff."

Her 10th recipe collection, Simple, makes that process even easier.

Building on her fourth book, Cook Simple (which was "never as big as I wanted it to be"), it's divided into clear sections, including chicken, fish and eggs (the building blocks of mealtimes, as Henry sees them), and provides a slew of straightforward ways to cook and eat them.

"I'm a food writer and I still think, 'What can I do with chops? What can I do with that salmon fillet? What can I do with pasta?' And I think most people think about their weekday meals like that," says Henry, explaining her approach. "When I worked in telly, I used to come home on the Tube and keep a notebook which had lists in it: 'Chicken thighs – what you can do with them; Salmon fillets – what you can do with them', and I just kept adding to that."

Switched

While the Northern Ireland-born journalist started out in TV, making music and arts programmes and human interest documentaries, as well as TV Dinners with Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, Henry, 52, switched to food writing when she had her first child.

"I was a massively keen cook, had him, and I was just knackered! He cried all the time so I always had to carry him around," she remembers.

For some time, her first book was even going to be called Cooking From The Hip, as it was about cooking with one hand "because you had a baby in the other".

That baby just turned 18, but Henry still has "as much trouble as anyone else getting a meal on the table on a Wednesday night", so Simple is a way of solving that problem.

In all her writing, she recognises that many find food – and wrangling it into an edible state – a chore, often stressful, or see cooking as a realm reserved purely for obsessed foodies.

"People see cooking as a hobby. It's not a hobby – it's a non-negotiable life skill," she says.

"I want people to love food and care about it, but at the same time, I want them to not think about it at all – just let it go. We've become really over-anxious about it," she muses.

"Food's about wonderfulness and poetry and memory and joyfulness – but it's very easy to lose that."

Want to cook Simple too? Try this recipe from Diana...



Pork loin with pumpkin puree and pecorino is one of the simple recipes Diana has included in the collection



Lemon and Lavender Cake is one of the recipes in the book



Diana Henry says cooking is a life skill, not a hobby

CUMIN-CORIANDER ROASTED CARROTS WITH POMEGRANATE AND AVOCADO

(Serves 6 as a starter, or 8 as a side dish)

For the salad:
30 young carrots, ideally slim
4tbsp extra virgin olive oil
2tsp cumin seeds
1tsp coriander seeds, crushed
1tsp chilli flakes
Salt and pepper
3 ripe avocados
25g walnut pieces, toasted
100g watercress, coarse stalks removed
Leaves from a small bunch of coriander
250g Greek yogurt
1 garlic clove, crushed
Seeds from 1/2 pomegranate

For the dressing:
3tsp pomegranate molasses
1 garlic clove, crushed
1/4tsp Dijon mustard
6tbsp extra virgin olive oil
1/4tsp honey
Squeeze of lemon juice

Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/gas mark 6. Trim the carrots at the tops but leave a bit of green tuft. Don't peel them, just wash well. Put in a roasting tin in a single layer. Add the olive oil, spices and seasoning.Ensure the carrots are all well coated. Roast for about 30 minutes.

To make the dressing, just whisk everything together with a fork. Halve and pit the avocados, cut into slices, then carefully peel. Put everything except the yogurt, garlic and pomegranates into a broad shallow bowl (or onto a platter) and toss in three-quarters of the dressing. Mix the yogurt with the garlic and dot among the vegetables, then scatter the pomegranate seeds. Add remaining dressing and serve.

Dilly-dallying adds £££s to Christmas shopping bill

WITH Christmas only 79 days away, new research reveals it takes consumers in the Midlands 39 online and in-store shopping trips and 18 hours of planning to get ready for the festive day.

However, the study from online shopping site TopCashback.co.uk, finds that while Christmas may be the time for giving and good cheer, it is also the time for plenty of procrastinating and inefficiency.

Nearly three-quarters (72 per cent) of consumers in the Midlands admit to getting distracted and not achieving what they want from Christmas shopping trips.

And around half (49 per cent) also put off festive buying for as long as possible.



This culminates in online and offline browsers dilly-dallying away seven hours of their time when they should have been getting their shopping done.

This adds up to a bill of over £47 in unnecessary coffees, long lunches, and buying things for themselves rather than the gifts they intended to buy for others.

When it comes to online distractions, consumers in the Midlands get waylaid researching what they are going to purchase (64 per cent), logging in to Facebook (51 per cent) and watching videos (16 per cent).

The reasons behind this procrastination are that the majority of people (55 per cent) do not know what to buy their friends and family, which is surprising given the 18 hours of planning most residents in the Midlands are expected to spend preparing for Christmas.

Additionally, 45 per cent find the shops too busy and more than a third (36 per cent) are overwhelmed by the expense of it all.

A further 29 per cent say the prep is too stressful and nine per cent think shopping is just downright boring.

Despite the tendency to put off scouring for gifts, consumers in the Midlands still have the best intentions and would ideally like everything completed by mid-December (36 per cent) or the end of November (27 per cent).

But, if past records are to go by, 17 per cent will not have it finished until Christmas Eve.

Natasha Rachel Smith, consumer affairs editor for TopCashback.co.uk, said: "Christmas, and especially the build up to it, can be a stressful time.



"There are often so many things that need to be done and bought ahead of the event as people want to make the festive season special.

"TopCashback helps take some of the pressure off by bringing together all the retailers people love.

"It also aids keeping spending under control as members get money back on purchases made."

Santa's little helpers

The majority (82 per cent) of people in the Midlands believe they are more efficient shoppers when they are on their own as 85 per cent are able to focus on the job at hand rather than becoming distracted.

A further 28 per cent end up looking for what the other person needs, rather than what they intended to buy and more than a quarter (26 per cent) are distracted by companions.

It seems the worst shopping buddies are partners (39 per cent) and kids (26 per cent).

Conversely, of those who do find it easier to shop with someone else, partners also come out on top as around a third (31 per cent) say they keep them focused and Mum is, of course, a helpful accomplice (20 per cent).

Christmas-ready shoppers

While the majority may struggle with festive preparations, an eager eight per cent of consumers in the Midlands started planning for Christmas back in January, immediately after the last one, with many making the most of the many bargains on offer in the new year sales.

And at this point in 2015, six per cent had even completed all their errands excluding purchasing perishables.

Of those who are not distracted while Christmas shopping, more than two-thirds (68 per cent) say it is because they shop online and avoid heading out into the high street.

The research also found that 48 per cent plan out what to get everyone before they go shopping and 45 per cent write a list and stick to it.

fast theticket

Feline fine

War story with a twist
See Page 31



Brothers in arms
See Page 31

NATIVE MONSTER
Entertainment Unleashed

For full listings see **Express & Star** every Friday

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Lisa Mills



Wednesday, 7.30pm
Robin 2, Bilston
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Visit **therobin.co.uk**

Romesh Ranganathan



Sunday & Wednesday, 8pm
Town Hall, Birmingham
The grumpy former maths teacher will focus on what bugs him when he brings his Irrational tour to the Midlands. The tour visits Wolverhampton and Telford next month.
Visit **thsh.co.uk**

Richard O'Brien's Rocky Horror Show



Monday to Saturday, various
New Alexandra Theatre, B'ham
The saucy and lurid comedy rock musical about sex maniac aliens that became a phenomenon returns to do the Time Warp again with Steve Punt as the narrator.
Visit **www.atgtickets.com/birmingham**

Petula Clark



Monday, 7.30pm
Town Hall, Birmingham
The singer found fame as a child star during the Second World War and has enjoyed continued success in the UK, France and the USA, still recording after seven decades.
Visit **thsh.co.uk**

CLUBBING

Propaganda
Tonight,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Leftfoot & Shadow City Present MCDE & Move D at The Rainbow Venues
Tonight,
The Rainbow Venues, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

Uprawr
Tomorrow, free entry
The Asylum, Birmingham,
B19 3LS. Call 0121 233 1109

Garage Gathering
Tomorrow,
Civicd Hall, Wolverhampton,
WV1 1RD.
Call 0870 320 7000

25 Years of DJ MAG – Jamie Jones & The Martinez Brothers at The Rainbow Venues
Tomorrow,
Cellar Door, The Rainbow
Venues, Digbeth, Birmingham,
B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

Red Card Student Night
Wed,
Walkabout Inn Birmingham,
B1 2DS. Call 0121 632 5712

JAZZ, BLUES, SOUL REGGAE & MOTOWN

Detroit Soul
Tonight - tomorrow,
The Jam House, Birmingham,
B3 1QU. Call 0121 200 3030

The Ruts DC
Tonight,
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552122

The Blues Run The Game
Mon, £2 - £5
Tower Of Song, Birmingham,
B30 3EL.
Call 0121 486 1300

Jazz Tuesdays
Tue,
Spotted Dog, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B12 0NH.
Call 0121 772 3822

Lisa Mills
Wed, £12.50 - £14.50
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 20-22 01902 401211

ROCK & METAL

Fred Zeppelin (Led Zeppelin tribute)
Tonight, £8
The River Rooms, Stourbridge,
DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397 177
or 07986 577 661

Food Fighterz
Tonight, £6 - £7
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Joe Brown Solo Show – Just Joe. Plus Special Guest Henry Gross
Tonight,
Dudley Town Hall, DY1 1HP.
Call 01384 815577

ELO Again – A Night of ELO
Tomorrow, £15 - £16
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 20-22 01902 401211

The Wedding Present
Tomorrow,
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552122

The Top Ten Beatles
Tomorrow, £15
Huntingdon Hall, Crowngate
Shopping Centre, Worcester,
WR1 3LD. Call 01905 611427

Aussie Wrecking Crew Tour 2016
Sun,
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552122

Talon (Eagles tribute)
Sun, £17.50 - £19.50
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3
8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Goo Goo Dolls
Thu,
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Slam Cartel
Thu, £5
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

The Sunshine Underground + Broken Flags
Thu, £14
The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1DR. Call 01782 214991

FOLK, COUNTRY & ACOUSTIC

Acoustic, Up Close & Personal with Toyah
Tonight, £20
The Ironbridge Gorge Museums,
Coalbrookdale, TF8 7DQ.
Call 01952 433 424

The Lindisfarne Story
Tonight, £19.50
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3
8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Sing Political!
Wed,
The Prince of Wales Moseley,
Birmingham, B13 8EE.
Call 0121 4494198

CLASSICAL

Sacconi Quartet with Robert Plane: Bromsgrove Concerts
Tonight, £19
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

Jean-Michel Jarre
Tomorrow,
Barclaycard Arena,
Brindleyplace, Birmingham,
B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

Organ Proms
Tomorrow,
Victoria Hall, Hanley,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

Gospel Central
Wed,
The Jam House, Birmingham,
B3 1QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

POP

Petula Clark From Now On Tour
Mon,
Town Hall Birmingham, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Level 42 – Sirens II Tour 2016
Tue, £28
Symphony Hall, Birmingham
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Lloyd Cole
Wed,
Glee Club Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

RAP & RNB

Akala – 10 Years of Akala Tour
Thu,
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

FESTIVALS

The Quinphonic Festival 3
Sun, £15
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

COMEDY

Martin Huburn Tiptonite – Live Lounge Comedy Special
Tomorrow, Free entry
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton,
B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

The Impney Comedy Night: Roy Walker
Tonight,
Chateau Impney Hotel &
Exhibition Centre, Droitwich Spa,
WR9 0BN.
Call 01905 77 44 11

Queer'Say
Tonight. £5 - £6
Artrix,
Bromsgrove,
B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

Jimmy Carr – The Best of, Ultimate, Gold, Greatest Hits Tour
Tomorrow,
Dudley Town Hall, DY1 1HP.
Call 01384 815577

Kerry Godliman – Stick or Twist
Tomorrow,
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

Romesh Ranganathan: Irrational
Tomorrow,
Malvern Theatres, WR14 3HB.
Call 01684 892277
and
Sun and Wed,
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Al Murray – Lets Go Backwards Together
Sun,
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1AP.
Call 0844 871 7649

BBC Radio 4's Mitch Benn at the Cheeky Monkey comedy club, Moseley, Birmingham
Tue,
The Dark Horse Moseley,
Birmingham, B13 8JP.
Call 0121 449 6300

Board Game Smackdown – as part of the Birmingham Comedy Festival 2016
Wed,
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Cloaks
Wed, £8 - £10
Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton,
WV1 1SE.
Call 01902 321321

Patrick Monahan: That 80's Show
The Old Joint Stock Pub
& Theatre, Birmingham, B2 5NY.
Call 0121 200 1892

Rich Hall
Thu, £17
Oakengates Theatre, Telford,
TF2 6EP.
Call 01952 382382

THEATRE

946: The Amazing Story Of Adolphus Tips
Tonight - Thu, £10 - £15
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Strictly Musicals
Tonight - tomorrow,
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1AP.
Call 0844 871 7649

Roxy Magic
Tonight - tomorrow, £12 - £14
Theatre on the Steps, Bridgnorth,
WV16 4BD.
Call 01746 766477

Romeo and Juliet
Tonight - tomorrow,
Hall Green Little Theatre,
Birmingham, B27 7RY.
Call 0121 707 1874

The Duchess of Malfi
Tonight - tomorrow,
The Crescent Theatre,
Brindleyplace, Birmingham,
B16 8AE.
Call 0121 643 5858

The Tempest
Tonight - tomorrow,
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5
4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

Beyond the Water's Edge
Sun,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

9 To 5 – The Musical
Tue - Thu,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE. Call 01902 42 92 12

Carmen – Russian State Opera
Sun,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Jane McDonald
Sun,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

The Rocky Horror Show
Mon - Thu,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Bardolph's Box
Tue,
Malvern Theatres, WR14 3HB.
Call 01684 892277

Whitney – Queen of the Night
Thu,
Victoria Hall, Hanley,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

All & Sundry present Of Mice And Men
Thu, £10.75 - £12.75
The Palace Theatre, Redditch,
B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

ARTS & CULTURE

The Art Of Slowing Down
Today,
Creative Coffee Hub,
Birmingham, B29 6HJ.
Call 01215 727300

Henry Normal
Today,
Library of Birmingham, B1 2ND.
Call 0121 242 4242

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

New play from War Horse author



A dazzling jitterbug scene from 946: The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips, which is based on a real wartime incident

A STORY about a hushed-up D-Day training disaster, created by the writer of War Horse, will be staged at Birmingham Rep from tonight (Thursday) until October 15.

The play, 946: The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips, has been adapted by Michael Morpurgo and Emma Rice from Morpurgo's own book of the same name.

The production enjoyed acclaimed reviews during a season at London's The Globe and is now on the road for its first UK tour. It tells the little-known story of an ill-fated rehearsal of the D-Day landings, when 946 people were killed during Operation Tiger at Slapton Sands in Devon in 1944.

In the lead role of youngster Lilly Treganza is Katy Owen, who appeared in Kneehigh's Rebecca at Birmingham Rep last year and recently as Puck in the Globe's production of A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Lily Tregenza, her family and her cat Tips are trying to live a normal village life in the midst of the Second World War.

Rescue

After being inundated with evacuees from London, village life is halted as American GIs arrive to prepare for the D-Day landings. Lily and her family are moved away from Slapton but Tips gets left behind. Lily sets out to rescue her cat accompanied by townie friend Barry and a black American GI Adolphus 'Adi' T Madison.

It feels like it couldn't get any worse for Lily and her family, but then the Germans ambush the training fleet with disastrous results for the Allied troops.

Morpurgo said: "There is no theatre company that tells stories more imaginatively, more unexpectedly, than Kneehigh. 946 is based on historical events that took place in and around Slapton as the Americans trained for the landings in France.

"I have witnessed first-hand the way Kneehigh weaves a tale and makes it live on stage for us. For my story to play a part in this is simply a joy."



Blood and tears show

LEGENDARY Liverpool musical drama Blood Brothers is returning to Birmingham Hippodrome for a fortnight's run with Lyn Paul in the iconic role of Mrs Johnstone, the mother of ill-fated twins in this much-loved tearjerker.

Written by Willy Russell, Bill Kenwright's production surpassed 10,000 performances in London's West End over 24 years, one of only three musicals ever to achieve that milestone.

The show tells the story of twin boys separated at birth, only to be reunited by a twist of fate and a mother's secret.

The memorable score includes A Bright New Day, Marilyn Monroe and the emotionally charged hit Tell Me It's Not True.

Lyn Paul, who found fame in the 1970s as a member of chart-topping pop group the New Seekers, returns to the role she played many times in the West End, right up the show's final performances at the Phoenix Theatre four years ago.

She also featured in Bill Kenwright's tour of Cabaret as Fräulein Schneider with Will Young, which came to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre in 2013.

Blood Brothers is at the Hippodrome from Monday to October 22.

Arena spectacular from synth master

A SPECTACLE for the eyes and an audio treat for the ears is anticipated when French electronic music pioneer Jean-Michel Jarre showcases his Electronica albums at the Barclaycard Arena on Saturday.

Since his first concert in 1979 celebrating Bastille Day, Jarre's concert history has been unprecedented. He has set and broken World records including one for an audience of 2.5 million at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris and for 3.5 million in Moscow. Expect a burst of Oxygene too.

Meanwhile, German synth trailblazers Kraftwerk have announced a concert at Birmingham Symphony Hall for June 13.

Punk veterans and indie rock favourites

IF you're in a rut and you want to get out of it – check out punk-reggae veterans Ruts DC at Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms tomorrow night (Friday). The Ruts were one of the fiercest political punk bands on the front line of protests in the 1970s, reinventing themselves as Ruts DC after the death of frontman Malcolm Owen in 1980. Featuring original bass player John 'Segs' Jennings and drummer Dave Ruffy – guitarist Paul Fox died in 2007 – the band has upped the reggae content.

Top 1980s indie outfit The Wedding Present, fronted by David Gedge, play the Slade Rooms on Saturday.

Weller's band in Hare & Hounds gig

KEY gigs in Brum include former Husker Du frontman Bob Mould in support of his Patch The Sky album at the O2 Academy tomorrow night (Friday).

On Saturday Kate Jackson, ex-Long Blondes, performs songs from solo debut British Road Movies with new band The Wrong Moves at The Rainbow's Mama Roux venue in Digbeth.

Ocean Colour Scene's Steve Cradock and other members of Paul Weller's band play as The Songbook Collective at the Hare & Hounds in Kings Heath on Sunday. Following the release of single Lose Control, Leeds outfit Pigeon Detectives play The Sunflower Lounge on Wednesday.



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CHOICE



Boy George

Boy George's 1970s: Save Me from Suburbia (BBC2, 9.30pm)

The BBC's My Generation season continues as Boy George revisits his teenage years. While history may remember the 1970s as being marked by strikes, poverty and civil dischord, the singer reveals that – for the young George O'Dowd – the decade was the beginning of his musical, social and sexual coming-of-age. He discusses how sexual repression and disenfranchisement, along with the advent of glam rock, disco and punk, gave rise to the flamboyant persona he would later unleash on the world, via Culture Club's memorable first appearance on Top of the Pops in 1982.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **12.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.00** Wallace & Gromit: A Grand Day Out. (R) **3.20 Film:** Shrek the Third. (2007) The bad-tempered ogre must persuade a rebellious teenager to face up to his responsibilities as heir to the throne. Animated sequel, with the voices of Mike Myers and Cameron Diaz. **4.45** Can't Touch This. **5.35** BBC News. **5.45** Regional Programme. **5.55** Pointless Celebrities.

6.45 Strictly Come Dancing. Strictly is nothing if not glamorous, but there are a few extra sparkles this week as the contestants take their inspiration from the silver screen in a movie-themed show, with Len Goodman, Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Darcey Bussell deciding who is a blockbuster and who is a box-office flop. As ever, Tess Daly introduces the twinkle-toed stars, while Claudia Winkleman chats to them after their performances – and watch out too for the professionals, who will no doubt be kicking off the show off with a spirited effort.

8.50 The National Lottery: Five Star Family Reunion. A UK family and their long-lost overseas relatives must work together in order to win a once-in-a-lifetime reunion in a five-star location. The overseas family must answer questions to win time for their relatives in the UK studio, who will then individually answer questions against the clock. Nick Knowles hosts. Includes the Lotto and Thunderball draws, plus a performance by the Shires.

9.40 Casualty. Robyn's plans are thwarted when her ailing sweetheart Glen's health takes a turn for the worse. Meanwhile, Dylan's clinical skills are put to the test.

10.30 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.50 Film: Iron Man 3. (2013) The armoured avenger faces a terrorist whose plans involve a drug that makes people indestructible. Superhero adventure sequel, with Robert Downey Jr.

12.50 Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.55** BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 Film: They Flew Alone. (1942) **8.10 Film:** Evening. (2007) **10.00** Miniature Britain. (R) **11.00** Lost Land of the Jaguar. (R) **12.00** Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** Great British Menu. (R) **1.30** Great British Menu. (R) **2.00** Nature's Weirdest Events. (R) **3.00** Flog It! **4.00** The Hairy Bikers' Chicken and Egg. (R) **5.00** Gardeners' World. (R)

6.00 Inside the Commons. Behind the scenes at the State Opening of Parliament, and a look at how Labour and Conservative MPs conspire together to thwart their party whips. (R)

7.00 The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice. Jo Brand presents a companion show to BBC One's baking contest, featuring unseen footage from the programme and an interview with the week's eliminated baker. (R)

7.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring's men pose as traitors to see how the residents of Walmington-on-Sea would deal with genuine Nazi infiltrators in their midst. (R)

8.00 A Very British Murder with Lucy Worsley. New series. The historian examines Britain's enduring fascination with murder, beginning by exploring how stories of notorious killings entertained the public.

9.00 Artsnight: Michael Palin Meets Jan Morris. Michael Palin talks to Jan Morris, who has spent most of her 90 years writing about far-off places, after shooting to fame as part of the team that conquered Everest in 1953.

9.30 Boy George's 1970s: Save Me from Suburbia. The BBC's My Generation season continues as Boy George explains how the social dischord and sexual politics of the 1970s informed the development of his pop persona.

10.35 Film: Cabaret. (1972) A flighty nightclub singer in 1930s Berlin is drawn into a love triangle with a sensitive would-be English writer and an aristocratic German, as the Nazi party grows in might and the country heads inexorably toward war. Oscar-winning musical directed and choreographed by Bob Fosse, starring Liza Minnelli, Joel Grey, Michael York and Helmut Griem.

12.30 Film: Marnie. (1964) **2.35** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.15** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Sooty. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.20** Oddbods. (R) **7.25** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.30** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Looped. **8.30** Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Doo! **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** Tipping Point. (R) **1.30** The Chase. (R) **2.30** The X Factor. (R) **4.00** Regional Programme ; Weather.**4.15** ITV News; Weather. **4.30** World Cup Qualifier Live. England v Malta (Kick-off 5.00pm).

7.15 ITV News; Weather.

7.30 You've Been Framed! Gold. (R)

8.00 The X Factor. Thousands of aspiring pop stars turned up at the auditions, 120 battled it out at boot camp and, after the drama of the six-chair challenge, the best of those made it through to the judges' houses. Now the competition really begins as the final 12 perform live for the judges and millions of viewers at home. Each of them will be hoping they have what it takes to make an impression and stay on the show right up to the final just before Christmas. Simon Cowell is mentoring the girls' category, Louis Walsh has the groups, Nicole Scherzinger looks after the boys, while Sharon Osbourne has the over-25s. Hosted by Dermot O'Leary.

10.00 Newzoids. Satirical sketch show blending traditional puppetry and animation, with impressionists Jon Culshaw, Debra Stephenson, Lewis Macleod and Simon Greenall. Last in the series.

10.30 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host is joined by Strictly Come Dancing judge Darcey Bussell, comedians Jack Whitehall and Alan Carr, and Whiplash star Miles Teller.

11.30 World Cup Qualifier Highlights. Jacqui Oatley introduces action from England v Malta at Wembley Stadium, as Gareth Southgate continued his short stint in charge of the Three Lions.

12.50 Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Gillette World Sport. **6.35** Motor Sport: GT Academy. **7.05** Triathlon: Vitoria-Gasteiz. **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** The Simpsons. (R) **10.30** The Simpsons. (R) **11.00** The Simpsons. (R) **11.30** Sarah Beeny's Four Rooms. **12.30** Formula 1 Japanese Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights. **2.00** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Newmarket and York. **4.30** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. **5.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud meets Tom and Danielle Raffield, whose lifelong passion has been steam-bending wood. They've used the technique to create extraordinary furniture and lighting, but now plan to use it on a larger scale. In an attempt to escape the confines of their tiny gamekeeper's lodge, they have decided to build a wavy wooden house in South Cornwall, completed with curved cladding, twisted furniture and interior walls covered with weathered timber. With a £100,000 budget, the pair have decided to do a lot of the building themselves, and Kevin is on hand to discover whether they're up to the challenge. (R)

8.00 Walking Through Time. Palaeobiologist Dr Toni Herridge explores the Jurassic Coast of Devon and Dorset, walking from the 150-million-year-old cliffs of Kimmeridge at its eastern end, back through time to the even older red cliffs of Budleigh Salterton, to reveal why the coast is packed with world-class fossils. Along the way she encounters the biggest sea predator ever to have lived and a global disaster that nearly destroyed life on our planet. Last in the series.

9.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts as Jessica Hynes and guest captain David Walliams take on Jon Richardson and Rhod Gilbert.

10.00 Film: The Inbetweeners 2. (2014) The awkward teenagers find university does not live up to their expectations, and go to Australia in search of adventure. Comedy sequel, starring Simon Bird.

12.00 Film: Good Morning, Vietnam. (1987) **2.10** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.10** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.30** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **11.00** FIA Formula E: Season Preview. **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.55** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.55** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **2.55** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **3.55** 5 News Weekend. **4.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **5.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

6.00 The NCIS Movie: Enemies Exposed. Ziva confronts her past when the team is ordered to protect her father, Mossad director Eli David, at a gathering of former heads of NCIS. The agents discover he is being targeted by terrorists who have hijacked a shipment of advanced weapons from the army. Feature-length episode of the drama, guest starring TJ Ramini and Michael Nouri, with Cote de Pablo and Michael Weatherly. (R)

7.45 NCIS: New Orleans. Mardi Gras arrives in New Orleans, and Pride plans to mark the occasion by opening his bar to the public. However, festivities are put on immediate hold for the team when a US Marine is murdered at the hotel where Mayor Hamilton is holding his own party. As the agents head to the venue to investigate, they realise both Hamilton and Pride have disappeared. What follows is a race to locate the pair before they fall victim to their unknown kidnapper's brutal plans.

8.40 NCIS: New Orleans. The team searches for a soldier believed to be a prisoner of war in Afghanistan, when his prints are found in a crime scene.

9.35 Gotham. Gordon and Bullock track down a vigilante balloon seller responsible for the death of a corrupt businessman, and Oswald Cobblepot returns to Gotham. (R)

10.25 Football on 5: Goal Rush. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two.

11.30 Caught on Camera. Nick Wallis discovers how CCTV is helping to bring criminals using weapons to justice. (R)

11.55 Access.

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **4.50** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Lost Kingdoms of South America **8.00** Scotland's Vital Spark: The Clyde Puffer **9.00** Beck: The Last Day **10.30** It's Only Rock 'n' Roll: Rock 'n' Roll at the BBC **11.30** Totally British: 70s Rock 'n' Roll **1.30** Top of the Pops: 1982 **2.05** It's Only Rock 'n' Roll: Rock 'n' Roll at the BBC **3.05** The Good Old Days **3.50** Close

ITV2

12.30 The Xtra Factor Live **1.30** Funniest Ever You've Been Framed! Gold **2.15 Film:** Kangaroo Jack (2003) **3.15** FYI Daily **3.20 Film:** Kangaroo Jack (2003) **4.00 Film:** The Flintstones (1994) **5.00** FYI Daily **5.05 Film:** The Flintstones (1994) **5.50 Film:** The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) **6.50** FYI Daily **6.55 Film:** The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) **7.55 Film:** The Mask (1994) **8.55** FYI Daily **9.00 Film:** The Mask (1994) **10.00** The Xtra Factor Live **10.30** Celebrity Juice **11.20** Family Guy **12.45** American Dad! **1.15 Film:** American Pie Presents Band Camp (2005) **2.15** FYI Daily **2.20 Film:** American Pie Presents Band Camp (2005) **2.45** Teleshopping

ITV3

11.20 Film: Carry On Again Doctor (1969) **12.05 Film:** Columbo: Short Fuse (1972) **1.40** Inspector Morse **4.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Lewis **1.00** You're Only Young Twice **1.55** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

2.35 British Superbike Championship Highlights **3.35** British Touring Car Championship Highlights **5.10 Film:** Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey (1991) **6.10** FYI Daily **6.15 Film:** Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey (1991) **7.00** Fierce **8.00** Storage Wars **9.00 Film:** Cliffhanger (1993) **10.10** FYI Daily **10.15 Film:** Cliffhanger (1993) **11.15 Film:** Public Enemies (2009) **12.25** FYI Daily **12.30 Film:** Public Enemies (2009) **2.00** Hell on Wheels **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen

E4

11.05 How I Met Your Mother **12.05** Baby Daddy **1.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Contraband (2012) **11.10** Gogglebox **1.15** Rude Tube **3.15** Gogglebox **4.05** Rude(ish) Tube **4.25** Revenge

Film4

1.00 Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (2012) **2.50** The Train (1964) **5.25** Vice Versa (1988) **7.20** Vehicle 19 (2013) **9.00** Pitch Perfect (2012) **11.10** The Final Destination (2009) **12.45** Lesson of Evil (2012) **3.25** Close

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CHOICE



Wild West: America's Great Frontier
(BBC2, 8pm)
New series. Documentary exploring the history and geography of America's deserts, canyons and wilderness, exploring the lives of the people and animals that have found ways to thrive and prosper in these brutally inhospitable conditions. The first programme examines the agricultural traditions of the Hopi Native American tribe in northeastern Arizona, as well as exploring the strategies used by a variety of wildlife, including mustangs, coyotes and desert tortoises, to survive in these demanding environments.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.45** Points of View. **3.00** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **4.00** Lifeline. **4.10** Songs of Praise. **4.50** Animal Babies. **5.50** BBC News.

6.05 Regional Programme.

6.15 Countryfile. A look at how rivers and waterways have shaped our landscape. Matt Baker meets a writer inspired by the Thames Estuary and an artist whose work is made from flotsam brought in on the tide. Naomi Wilkinson takes a trip down Britain's oldest shipping canal, Adam Henson visits one of the country's last traditional country fairs, Sean Fletcher discovers how a landfill site is being turned into a nature reserve, and Tom Heap explores the science surrounding Bovine TB.

7.15 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman host the results show, as the judges choose between the two couples with the lowest scores. Michael Ball and Alfie Boe provide the music.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Broughton Castle in Oxfordshire, where items brought in for valuation include two 18th-century paintings depicting the house's servants.

9.00 Poldark. Ross searches for Mark Daniel in the hope of finding copper and makes a deal with Trencrom – but it may be too late when George calls in his debts, leaving him faced with prison.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Room 101 – Extra Storage. Frank Skinner welcomes German comedian Henning Wehn, West End star Michael Ball and actress-presenter Caroline Quentin to discuss their pet hates. (R)

11.10 Film: War of the Worlds. (2005) A divorced father tries to protect his two children as alien war machines start to wipe out the human race. Steven Spielberg's sci-fi thriller, with Tom Cruise.

12.55 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.00** BBC News.

BBC2

7.15 Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **8.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.00** Countryfile. (R) **10.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **12.00** Food & Drink. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** Great British Menu. (R) **1.30** Great British Menu. (R) **2.00** Natural World: Madagascar, Lemurs and Spies. (R) **3.00** Heir Hunters. (R) **4.00** Flog It! **5.00** Rugby League.

6.00 Modern Times: 24 Hour Parcel People. On Christmas Eve 2014, next-day courier company City Link went into administration with the loss of thousands of jobs. This documentary was filmed in the summer of 2014 and tells the story of how the company tried to survive in the high-stakes world of overnight deliveries, uncovering the hidden world of the people who pack, process and deliver everything from trees to wine in orders placed with the UK's top 150 retailers. (R)

7.00 Ireland with Simon Reeve. Part two of two. Simon visits Belfast for the July 12 parades, as well as exploring the Giant's Causeway, learning more about Oliver Cromwell, and attending the Gaze film festival. (R)

8.00 Wild West: America's Great Frontier. New series. Documentary exploring the history, geography, wildlife and people of America's deserts, including the agricultural traditions of the Hopi tribe in Arizona.

9.00 Sir Chris Hoy: 200mph at Le Mans. Documentary following the Olympic cyclist as he retrains as a racing driver to pursue a lifelong dream of competing in the world's toughest endurance race, the Le Mans 24 Hours.

10.00 Film: Begin Again. (2013) Premiere. A disgraced record executive begins a life-changing collaboration with a singer he meets in New York's East Village. Comedy drama, with Keira Knightley and Mark Ruffalo.

11.40 Film: Wonder Boys. (2000) A washed-up professor is given the inspiration to finish his latest novel by a student who shows him a new perspective on life. Drama, starring Michael Douglas.

1.25 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.20** Holby City. (R) **3.20** This Is BBC Two. **5.45** The Face of Britain by Simon Schama. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.15** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Sooty. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.20** Oddbods. (R) **7.25** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.30** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Looped. **8.30** Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Bear Grylls Survival School. **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury. (R) **11.30** Chopping Block. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.40** The X Factor. (R) **2.40** Midsomer Murders. (R) **4.40** Victoria. (R) **5.40** Doc Martin. (R)

6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special. Nigel Havers, Melinda Messenger, Michelle Hardwick and Dave Gorman work as a team to take on quiz genius the Chaser and secure a cash prize for charity. Presented by Bradley Walsh.

8.00 The X Factor. Dermot O'Leary presents the results of the first live show, before a sing-off is held to determine which of the lowest scoring acts will be the first elimination of the year.

9.00 Victoria. The queen is heavily pregnant, but defies her mother and husband when they try to keep her confined to the palace – while the Duke of Cumberland sees political advantage to be gained should Victoria die in childbirth. During a public appearance by Victoria and Albert, a man in the crowd tries to assassinate her, setting in motion a number of conspiracy theories. Skerett receives an offer from Francatelli to join him in his new establishment. Last in the series.

10.05 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Peston on Sunday. (R)

11.20 Premiership Rugby Union. Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman present highlights of the latest top-flight fixtures, including Bath v Sale Sharks, Harlequins v Northampton Saints and Saracens v Wasps.

12.10 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.40** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.45 Triathlon: Stoke on Trent European City of Sport Triathlon 2016. **7.40** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Find It, Fix It, Flog It. **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.30** Formula 1 Japanese Grand Prix Highlights. **3.30** The Simpsons. (R) **4.00** The Simpsons. (R) **4.30** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.30** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Posh Pawn. James gets an enquiry about a passenger jet simulator, which the owner wants £150,000 for, and shows some unexpected kindness when a client is in danger of losing his collection of silver. A pilates instructor hopes her collection of designer handbags will be valuable enough to fund a dream holiday, and a diamond and sapphire necklace is pawned to fund a skincare business.

8.00 Speed Special: Guy's World Record Attempt. Guy Martin attempts to break the motorcycle land speed record, which currently stands at 376mph. He travels to Bonneville Salt Flats in Nevada, where he must learn to ride a unique jet-propelled bike which has two engines and requires a completely different driving technique to any vehicle he has previously encountered.

9.00 Celebrity Island with Bear Grylls. The recent outbreak of infighting on the island seems to have come to an end, and the castaways hope to make peace and enjoy a relaxed day off from their responsibilities. However, the peace does not last and hunger is soon taking an even greater toll than ever on the party. Karen Danczuk takes charge of the crisis and proposes a drastic solution – she intends to lead a small hunting party on an expedition to catch and kill a crocodile, providing the starving celebrities with an unusual source of meat. Last in the series.

10.00 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)

11.05 Film: Predators. (2010) Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring Adrien Brody and Topher Grace.

1.05 Travel Man: 48 Hours in Barcelona. (R) **1.35** Trump vs Clinton Live: US Presidential Debate. **3.45** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Milkshake! Monkey. **6.05** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **6.10** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.25** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.40** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.50** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.00** Pets. (R) **7.05** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.20** Pip Ahoy! (R) **7.30** FIA Formula E Live: Hong Kong. **9.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **10.30** The Gadget Show Greatest Gadgets Ever! (R) **11.30** Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. **11.55** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **12.55** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **1.50** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **2.50 Film:** Hercules. (1997) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Tate Donovan. **4.35 Film:** Robin Hood. (1973) Disney animation, with the voices of Terry-Thomas and Peter Ustinov.

6.15 Now That's Funny! Featuring clips of the world's most competitive people and footage of unusual animal antics, including a ninja dog.

7.05 Penn & Teller: Fool Us in Vegas. A double act bends metal bars and an illusionist makes a coin disappear into thin air. A performer asks Penn to help him out with a mind manipulation trick, while Jonathan Ross is recruited to help a kickboxer with a stunt involving 51 decks of cards and a woodchipper. Penn and Teller wrap up the show by performing an unusual flower-arranging trick.

8.00 Ice Road Truckers. Todd is forced to travail a tenuous ice crossing with the heaviest haul in Polar Industries' history, while Art embarks on a high-stakes rescue mission.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Film: Parker. (2013) A thief is betrayed and left for dead by his partners in crime. He learns they are planning a diamond heist in a wealthy neighbourhood, so poses as a millionaire wanting to buy a house in the area. A real-estate agent sees through the disguise and helps him get even by stealing the gems from his traitorous gang. Action thriller, with Jason Statham and Jennifer Lopez. Includes 5 News at 10pm.

11.20 Film: Safe. (2012) A former cage fighter protects a 12-year-old girl holding valuable information that several criminal factions want. Action thriller, starring Jason Statham and Catherine Chan.

1.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** Raw Recruits: Squaddies at 16. (R) **4.00** Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 In Their Own Words: 20th Century Composers **8.00** Gypsy: Live from the Savoy Theatre **10.15** Darcey Bussell Dances Hollywood **11.45** Tales from the Royal Bedchamber **12.45** Light and Dark **1.45** Impact! A Horizon Guide to Plane Crashes **2.45** Dissected: The Incredible Human Hand **3.45** Close

ITV2

11.00 Coronation Street **1.25** Catchphrase **2.10** You've Been Framed! **2.40 Film:** Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **3.40** FYI Daily **3.45 Film:** Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **4.50 Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **5.50** FYI Daily **5.55 Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **6.50 Film:** Paranoia (2013) **7.50** FYI Daily **7.55 Film:** Paranoia (2013) **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.00** Family Guy **11.55** American Dad! **12.50** The Cleveland Show **1.40** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.10** The Hot Desk: DNCE **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

12.25 Rosemary & Thyme **2.25 Film:** Columbo: Suitable for Framing (1971) **4.10 Film:** Carry On at Your Convenience (1971) **5.10** FYI Daily **5.15 Film:** Carry On at Your Convenience (1971) **6.00** Rosemary & Thyme **7.00** Lewis **9.00** It'll Be Alright on the Night **10.00** A Touch of Frost **12.05** Wire in the Blood **1.55** A Touch of Frost **3.35** May the Best House Win **5.15** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4

3.30 FYI Daily **3.35 Film:** The Hanging Tree (1959) **4.45 Film:** The Alamo (1960) **5.50** FYI Daily **5.55 Film:** The Alamo (1960) **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Car Crash Britain **10.05 Film:** American Gangster (2007) **11.10** FYI Daily **11.15 Film:** American Gangster (2007) **1.15** Steve McQueen: Motorcycle Movie Star **2.10** The Big Fish Off

E4

12.30 Come Dine with Me: Made in Chelsea Special **1.30** Made in Chelsea Does Come Dine with Me **2.40 Film:** Dr Seuss' The Lorax (2012) **4.20** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **4.30** The Goldbergs **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Shallow Hal (2001) **11.15** Tattoo Fixers on Holiday **12.20** The Inbetweeners **1.25** Gogglebox **2.25** Body Fixers **3.20** Hollyoaks

Film4

2.35 Evolution (2001) **4.35** St Trinian's 2: The Legend of Fritton's Gold (2009) **6.40** The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (2010) **9.00** Iron Man 2 (2010) **11.25** Arbitrage (2012) **1.35** Hitchcock/Truffaut (2015) **3.20** Close

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PICK OF THE WEEK

There's a web of intrigue for Julien in new case

Two years ago, viewers were gripped by The Missing, which starred James Nesbitt as a distraught father desperately searching for his young son who disappeared during a holiday to France.

The series ended on an ambiguous note – some viewers thought the mystery had been solved, others felt there were still some loose threads left dangling. However, the bad news for those in the latter camp is that this new series won't be picking up where the last one left off.

The good news is Tchéky Karyo is reprising his role as French detective Julien Baptiste to tackle a whole new case. And while the first run largely concentrated on parents dealing with the horror of not knowing what had happened to their child, this one takes a different approach.

Writers Harry and Jack Williams say: "While we were writing the first series, we began talking about what the show would have been had Oliver Hughes been found. This story grew out of that discussion.

"It's the other side of the coin to series one – an exploration of loss, of freedom, of how the past can shape the present in myriad ways that we cannot fully understand. It's bigger, more ambitious, and we're delighted to have such a brilliantly talented cast joining Julien Baptiste for a new case."

That cast includes David Morrissey (The Walking Dead, Extant) and Keeley Hawes (Line of Duty, The Casual Vacancy, The Durrells) as Sam and Gemma Webster, whose daughter Alice went missing in Eckhausen, Germany, in 2003.

By late 2014, Sam and Gemma are barely speaking to each other, and Alice's brother Matthew (Jake Davies) has become violent and withdrawn.

But then a young British woman is founding stumbling through the streets of Ekchausen, where she subsequently collapses – and is identified as Alice (Abigail Hardingham).

In theory, her return should be a cause for rejoicing, but the news throws her family into turmoil and sends shockwaves through the tight-knit German community.

As with the original series, we move between the present day and the original investigation. Even knowing that Alice will be found shouldn't make the series less tense, especially as it seems that she may hold vital clues to the whereabouts of a second missing girl, Sophie Giroux, whose 2003 disappearance was investigated by Baptiste. As the detective heads to Iraq, following a lead that he believes is key to finding the girls' abductor, the Webster family has to deal with what happens when the child you've spent years longing to be reunited with actually comes back.

Executive producer Willow Grylls promises we'll be hooked: "I am so proud to have such a high calibre of cast attached to this project and, with the genius of Harry and Jack Williams' scripts, I know the audience will be gripped to this series just as much as they were to the first. And the beloved Julien Baptiste is back!

"The Missing series two will be just as thrilling, heart-wrenching and character driven as you'd hope it to be."



Tcheky Karyo stars in The Missing, Wednesday, BBC1, 9pm

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Layer Cake, Channel 5, 11.05pm

A London cocaine dealer is all set to leave the criminal world behind and start a new life abroad. However, his plans are thwarted when he is asked to track down a gangster's drug-addicted daughter and locate a stolen shipment of Ecstasy. Crime thriller, starring Daniel Craig. (2004)

WEDNESDAY

The Time Traveler's Wife, Channel 4, 1.15am

A librarian suffers from a strange condition that causes him to involuntarily move backwards and forwards in time. He marries a woman who was already in love with him after an encounter in his future and her past, but his journeys through history put a strain on their relationship, especially as he learns more about events that have yet to happen. Romantic sci-fi drama based on Audrey Niffenegger's novel, starring Rachel McAdams. (2009)



Django Unchained, Friday, Channel 5, 10pm

THURSDAY

Delhi-6, Channel 4, 1.40am

Roshan accompanies his ailing grandmother to Delhi when she insists on dying in the land of her birth. He has spent all his life outside India and is initially awed by everything he sees, especially the close-knit community life and the fusion of Hindu-Muslim culture in his grandparents' old neighbourhood. But the deep-rooted animosity between Hindus and Muslims soon resurfaces, and Roshan, whose mother is a Muslim, is taken aback by the violent hatred he faces. Drama, starring Abhishek Bachchan, Waheeda Rehman, Sonam Kapoor, Rishi Kapoor, Om Puri. In Hindu with English subtitles. (2009)

FRIDAY

Django Unchained, Channel 5, 10pm

A slave named Django is tracked down by eccentric German bounty hunter Dr King Schultz, who offers him his freedom in exchange for help bringing three criminals to justice. The unlikely allies continue their partnership after the job is done, and fight to rescue Django's wife from a sadistic plantation owner. Quentin Tarantino's Oscar-winning Western, starring Jamie Foxx, Christoph Waltz, Leonardo DiCaprio and Samuel L Jackson. (2012)

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Derren Brown: Miracle

Channel 4, 9pm

The award-winning hypnotist, mindreader and master of psychological Illusion returns to the stage with a show that explores the world of evangelical faith healing, with Derren selecting people from the audience with a variety of ailments and attempting to rectify their problems using only the power of faith and the laying on of hands. The spectacle was created by Derren and his long-time collaborators Andy Nyman and Andrew O'Connor and was filmed over two nights at the Palace Theatre in London's West End.

TUESDAY

World Cup Qualifier Live

ITV, 7.15pm

Commentators Clive Tyldesley and Glenn Hoddle have been brushing up on their Slovenia facts as the side takes on England at 7.45pm. This Group F fixture takes place at Ljubljana's Stozice Stadium, and there will no doubt be some inspiring words from Gareth Southgate as he covers four games after Sam Allardyce's surprise departure last month. The Three Lions are obviously hoping to reach the tournament in Russia, but – pushing the big cat theme to breaking point – let's hope pride doesn't come before a fall. Slovenia have pulled many surprises out of the bag in the past, so it's anyone's guess who will emerge victorious from this showdown. Mark Pougatch introduces the proceedings.

WEDNESDAY

Aberfan: The Young Wives Club

ITV, 9pm

This month marks the 50th anniversary of the Aberfan disaster, in which 116 children and 28 adults lost their lives when a colliery spoil tip collapsed, burying a village school in South Wales. It was a tragedy that shocked Britain and devastated a community, and now the victims' relatives, some of whom are speaking publicly for the first time, talk about that day and how they have tried to rebuild their lives following such an unimaginable loss. In particular, the documentary focuses on the founding of the weekly Aberfan Young Wives club, which provided an outlet for the bereaved mothers' grief. The members reveal that although the bond they formed has helped them through some difficult times, there is a part of them that will be forever entwined with the day of the disaster.



Derren Brown: Miracle, Monday, Channel 4, 9pm

THURSDAY

Anne Robinson's Britain

BBC1, 8pm

It's probably fair to say that Anne Robinson isn't Britain's cuddliest, cosiest TV presenter, but she does have a softer side, which she displays in the second edition of this series. Robinson is a self-confessed dog-lover, which comes in handy as she celebrates the nation's pet owners, some of which are rather on the eccentric side. Among those she discusses the subject with are a socialite who's obsessed with horses, and a homeless person whose main companion is a canine. There's also a chance to meet the woman who claims her rabbits helped her cope with her divorce, and the seven London cats with more than a millions Facebook followers. However, it's a segment focusing on what pets say about their owners that proves to be the most entertaining moment.

FRIDAY

Jamie's Super Food

Channel 4, 8pm

While in South Korea, Jamie Oliver meets one of the oldest people in the world and learns about her diet of nutrient-rich, home grown vegetables. Then, in the mountains of Switzerland, he goes looking for healthy grains. Back at home, the chef reveals how one well-known supermarket super food can be used to create numerous, nutritious and delicious breakfasts with 'avocado 4 ways'. He breaks out some colourful vegetables to enhance chicken fajitas for lunch, and adds barley to a beef and Guinness stew for dinner.

Britain's Greatest Bridges

Channel 5, 9pm

New series. Rob Bell reveals the story behind the construction of the Forth Rail Bridge and how its incredible engineering achievement was born from tragedy and paid for in blood.

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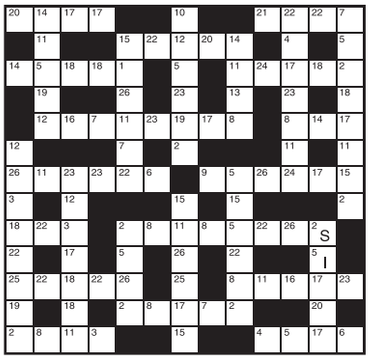
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BRAIN GYM No.398

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2 S	15
3	16
4	17
5 I	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
N	F	Y	M	O	Z	R	L	V	E	B	G	T
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
P	W	U	K	J	S	D	A	H	I	X	C	Q

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

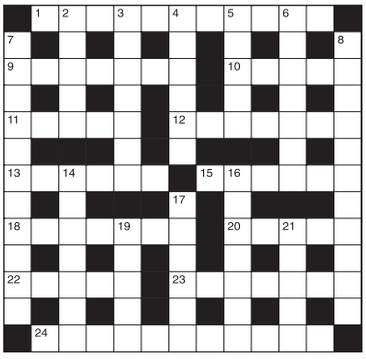
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Motion in favour of standing (11)
9. Lets Rob cook crustacean (7)
10. Subsequently further back? (5)
11. The best of the literature (5)
12. In tones indicating strain (7)
13. Where there's fighting on the weather map? (6)
15. Somehow, pet ran to father or mother (6)
18. Make cuts in the theatre? (7)
20. Gratuity has risen like a theatre seat? (3-2)
22. Animal from Eastern country (5)
23. Residents winning games of chess? (7)
24. Supposition of starting again at the pit-head (11)

Down

2. Priest cut off animal's tail (5)
3. Long suffering person under treatment (7)
4. Priest upset mischievous spirit (6)
5. More than one mark the writer? (5)
6. The team back in the pavilion? (7)
7. Blooming senior? (11)
8. Lead to gap in mountains to make it happen (5,2,4)
14. It's nothing to write a tune out of doors (4,3)
16. In great temptation to try (7)
17. He's neither too big nor too small for a sitting (6)
19. Also two points in the mountains (5)
21. In occupation of a paved area (5)



Quick Clues:

Across

1. Unclassifiable (11)
9. Built (7)
10. Counterfeit (5)
11. Sift (5)
12. Ingredient (7)
13. Niche (6)
15. Quantity (6)
18. Wind (7)
20. Overturn (5)
22. Ingenuous (5)
23. Briskly (7)
24. Affluence (11)

Down

2. Fat (5)
3. Trembles (7)
4. Depress (6)
5. Plunder (5)
6. Upstart (7)
7. Dimension (11)
8. Giving back (11)
14. Goblet (7)
16. Half-drunk (7)
17. Rupture (6)
19. Live (5)
21. Wise men (5)

Sudoku

			9		2			8
8		6				2	4	
			8		5	6		
2	3		4					1
			2		1		5	
4				5	9		2	3
		9	7					
	1	8			4		9	7
			5		6	1		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	8	6	4	7	9	3	2	5
2	9	7	5	6	3	1	4	8
5	4	3	1	8	2	6	7	9
8	5	2	3	4	6	7	9	1
7	6	4	2	9	1	8	5	3
9	3	1	7	5	8	2	6	4
6	2	5	8	3	4	9	1	7
4	1	8	9	2	7	5	3	6
3	7	9	6	1	5	4	8	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Inactive; 5 Idle; 9 Call; 10 Accursed; 11 Defer; 12 Pursuer; 13 Statelessness; 18 Restrain; 19 Well; 20 Ignoble; 21 Bound; 22 Etch; 23 Attended. Down: 2 Nearest; 3 Collect; 4 Vice-president; 6 Dispute; 7 Endures; 8 Quires; 13 Service; 14 Arsenic; 15 Enrobe; 16 New moon; 17 Silence. QUICK - Across: 1 Admonish; 5 Calf; 9 Ache; 10 Ignorant; 11 Minor; 12 Tensile; 13 Senselessness; 18 Tangible; 19 Weep; 20 Settled; 21 Petty; 22 Yaps; 23 Detested. Down: 2 Decline; 3 Onerous; 4 Sign the pledge; 6 Avarice; 7 Fitness; 8 Doings; 13 Satisfy; 14 Non-stop; 15 Edible; 16 Newness; 17 Sceptre.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. Of which country is Gozo a part?
2. What was the 1944 Allied invasion of Normandy called?
3. What is the forename of Johan Cruyff's ex-Manchester United football-playing son?
4. Which type of pilot is named from the Japanese for 'wind of the gods'?
5. In which English county is the chalk figure known as the Cerne Abbas Giant?
6. Which English composer's middle name was Kemp?
7. Which actor/director was born Allen Stewart Konigsberg?
8. Of which country is the Irrawaddy the chief river?
9. How many pounds are there in a hundredweight?
10. Who was the father of Jacob and Esau?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Africa; 2 Brighton; 3 Iris;

4 Driving Miss Daisy; 5 George III;

6 Leinster; 7 David Copperfield; 8 Titanium;

9 Australia; 10 Otter.

Niner: RESOLVING

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

3588 gives a British statesman,
926451 gives a Greek mathematician,
172198 gives a French novelist.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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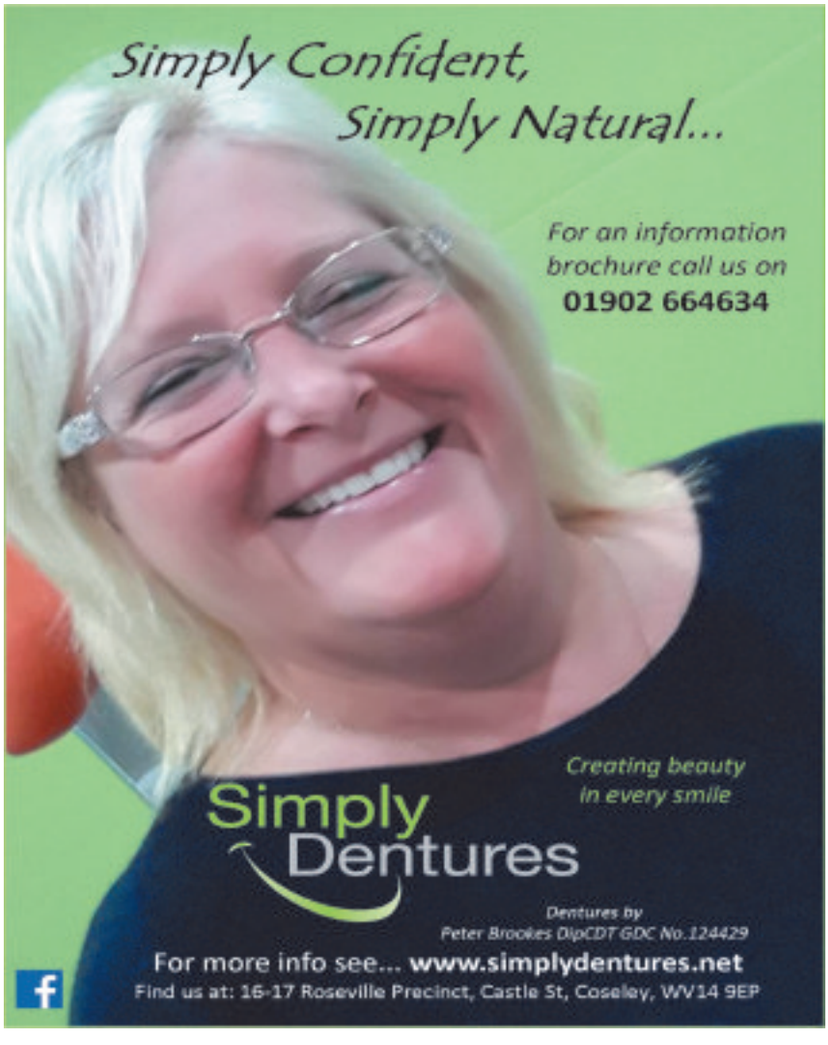
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Dudley Chronicle Thursday, October 6, 2016



Catherine's Palace in St Petersburg, with its turquoise, gold and white facade



The iconic Little Mermaid statue in Copenhagen, Denmark



Old City Wall, Tallinn, the medieval capital of Estonia



A magnificent view from Peterhof Palace, St Petersburg

Climb on board to enjoy history, culture, sightseeing and more

By Chris Hutchinson

We had almost decided on a city holiday to Sweden and Denmark when we saw a Fred Olsen cruise which included those two countries, plus the bonus of Baltic Sea countries Estonia, Latvia and Russia – with St Petersburg as the highlight.

The itinerary immediately appealed, and with the help and knowledge from the tour staff, we booked a series of excursions well within our budget.

Leaving from a UK port has many benefits, including extra luggage allowance and speedy embarkation.

After two sunny days' sailing, we entered the Swedish Archipelago, a group of 30,000 islands; our ship Balmoral weaved through a four-hour scenic passage.

Arriving in Stockholm, a panoramic city tour took in the highlights. Strolling around the oldest district, Gamla Stan, you absorb the heart and antiquity of the city. In Tallinn, a medieval town in Estonia, our walking tour was a great way to soak up sights and sounds of this enchanting place, with narrow cobbled streets, secret courtyards and fairytale towers.

Troubadours and Minstrels entertain, singing and playing traditional songs in authentic dress. Stalls selling hand knitted clothing and amber – known as Baltic gold– are sold at keen prices. Lunch of pork, cooked Estonian style, is a culinary delight.

The next morning, we arrived at St Petersburg, Russia. Two names are synonymous with this extraordinary city, rulers Peter and Catherine the Great, whose influence dominated Imperial Russia and still evident today. We made the most of our first day, with tours of Peterhof Palace and the Hermitage, which houses more than 2.8 million works of art. Lunch in a typical Russian restaurant started with vodka tasting.

In the evening, we were taken to the Nickolaevsky Palace, featuring a traditional folk show, entertained by musicians, singers and dancers, each routine reflecting different regions of Russia. During the interval, Russian Champagne, vodka, caviar and canapés were served generously. The show ended with a rousing Cossack theme.

Highlights

The city's highlights tour captures the most significant sights of St Petersburg. By now, we were only half way through our cruise.

Riga, regarded as the 'Pearl of Latvia', is characterised by three distinct faces, from 14th century medieval roots, quality Art Nouveau buildings and 19th century wooden architecture. We visited the Dome Cathedral, while meandering round the quaint old town, you become enthralled in its history. Sailing to Denmark, we had unexpected sight of a pod of dolphins appearing either side of the ship.

Balmoral berthed a short walk from Copenhagen's iconic attraction, the Little Mermaid; despite three serious injuries, she sits serenely on her bed of rocks.

After taking in Copenhagen's highlights, we arrived at the old charming fishing village of Dragor. We strolled the narrow streets of yellow cottages with thatched roofs, gardens ablaze with Hollyhocks, ending with Danish pastry and coffee served at an old inn.

Our final night in Balmoral's theatre featured all the artists and dancers in a spectacular show that left us clamouring for more.

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OR CHOOSE A MYSTERY SHOW
12 NOV • MOTOWN • ALADDIN
19 NOV • KINKY BOOTS • CHARLIE & CHOC FACTORY
24 NOV • ELVIS - SCREEN SPECTACULAR
26 NOV • LES MISERABLES • WICKED
3 DEC • BILLY ELLIOT IN MANCHESTER
3 DEC • PHANTOM • JERSEY BOYS
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★CHESTER & CHATSWORTH CHRISTMAS MARKET
20 NOV Daresbury Hotel ★LIONEL RITCHIE
★CHESTER & MATLOCK VICTORIAN XMAS MARKET
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An immaculate detached property in a popular area

An immaculately presented detached property, 33 Lister Road, Dudley lies in a popular road close to local amenities and schools.

It is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £210,000 with no chain.

It accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hall, spacious reception rooms, a re-fitted kitchen with a utility room, two double bedrooms and a good sized third bedroom and a re-fitted bathroom.

It also has gas central heating, double glazing, off road parking, a garage and an impressive rear garden.

In more detail the entrance porch has a quarry tiled floor.

The entrance hall has stairs off to the first floor landing, an under-stairs pantry and parquet flooring.

The lounge has a bay window to the and a feature fireplace.

The rear reception room has a feature fireplace and French doors opening out to the rear garden.

Recently re-fitted with a range of high gloss wall and base units with working surfaces over, the kitchen has an integrated electric oven, electric hob with extractor over, an integrated microwave, integrated fridge and freezer, integrated dishwasher, spot lights and door opening out to the rear garden.

The outer hallway has a door to the garden and a door to the garage and a sliding door to the utility. This has plumbing for a washing machine with work surfaces over, a pedestal sink and a WC.

Bedroom one has a bay window to the front, bedroom two has a window to the rear and bedroom three has a window to the front.

The re-fitted bathroom has a white suite with a panelled bath, vanity unit with a sink, a separate shower cubicle, heated towel rail and tiled splash backs and there is a separate WC.

Outside is a garage and a good sized private rear garden with a gravelled patio area, large lawn and mature fruit trees.

DUDLEY £210,000



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Hicks Hadley
TEL: 0121 5856667
EMAIL: sales@hickshadley.com

KEY FEATURES

- Immaculately presented
- Popular area
- No chain
- Garage & parking
- Impressive rear garden







He's sold

Turn to your local estate agent to sell your property and you will be **SOLD ON:**

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If you are thinking of selling, look no further than the estate agents in these pages for the best local advice available.



Characterful detached with original features

MUSHROOM GREEN
£270,000

A characterful detached cottage/bungalow in Mushroom Green, Dudley Wood, The Old Cott has many original features and spacious accommodation.

It is for sale through The Property Shop at offers over £270,000.

This lovely home is idyllically situated in the Hamlet of Mushroom Green which dates back to the 18th Century. It is only a short stroll from Saltwells Nature Reserve, the property has an entrance hall, lounge with original working cast iron range, kitchen, conservatory/dining room, master bedroom with en suite, second bedroom, outhouse utility, garden WC, workshop, detached garage and beautiful gardens.

Call The Property Shop on 01384 456022 or visit www.thepropertyshop.co.uk









Spacious three/four bedroom bungalow in secluded area

DUDLEY
£235,000 <<<

This spacious detached three/four-bedroomed bungalow in a secluded location in Junction Street, Dudley has plenty to offer its next owner.

Not only does it have its own private drive and further large driveway, it comes with a workshop and various outbuildings.

It is for sale through Trinity Property at £235,000.

It has an entrance lobby, a spacious internal hallway, a lounge with a floor to ceiling bay to the front and double glazed doors leading to the rear dining room. There is also a large fitted breakfast kitchen with a dining area and access to the rear garden, three good sized bedrooms and a house bathroom with low level flush WC and a bath with mixer shower over.

Contact Trinity Property on 01384 213395 or visit the site www.trinityproperty.net

Cottons
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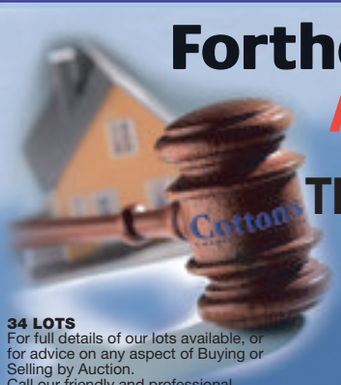
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83 ALL SAINTS ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON



30 GROVE HILL ROAD, HANDSWORTH



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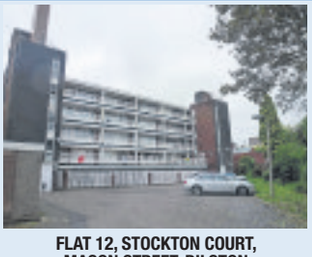
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KINGSTONE WORKS, KINGSTONE, HEREFORD



29 PACE CRESCENT, BILSTON



FLAT 12, STOCKTON COURT, MASON STREET, BILSTON



5 CIRCUIT CLOSE, WILLENHALL



LAND REAR OF 42 COMMONSIDE, PENSNETT



24 NEW STREET, WORDSLEY, STOURBRIDGE



5 WATERLOO ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON

The Property Ombudsman
NAEA
SWINSCOES
Sedgley
01902 672274
sales@swinscoes.co.uk

SEDGLEY







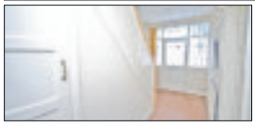
Wolverhampton Road,

- A beautiful dormer Bungalow
- IDEAL FAMILY HOME
- Set among extensive grounds
- Excellent condition
- Three/four bedrooms
- Snooker Room
- Two garages
- EPC Rating - E

GUIDE PRICE £399,950

SEDGLEY








Kings Road,

- A 4 bed detached Residence
- HEART of Sedgley
- Extended and enhanced
- Lounge and dining room
- Garage and large drive
- EPC - TBC

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £220,000

UPPER GORNAL







Ox Street,

- A DETACHED home
- Three bedrooms
- Open plan kitchen diner
- Driveway and Garage
- Pleasant cul-de-sac
- EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £174,950

LOWER GORNAL





Prospect Road,

- A rare opportunity near Gornal Village
- SPLIT LEVEL HOUSE
- Bedrooms downstairs
- Balcony with fantastic views
- Low maintenance garden
- Opportunity to create ideal home
- FIVE bedrooms
- EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £244,950

ETTINGSHALL PARK



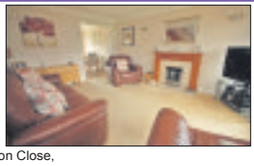



Camberley Crescent,

- Immaculately presented family home
- Extended semi-detached
- Located in the ever popular Ettingshall Park
- Separate Lounge and Dining
- THREE good sized bedrooms Enviable utility room.
- Fully Upvc double glazed
- Garage and off road parking
- Viewing is highly recommended.
- EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £172,950

WOODSETTON

Woodsetton Close,

- FANTASTIC modern Semi-Detached
- Cul-de-sac location nearby popular schools
- 5 Minutes from Sedgley and Coseley
- Open plan dining kitchen
- Spacious Lounge
- THREE bedrooms
- Landscaped Garden
- EPC Rating - D

£159,950





Ward Grove, Ettingshall Park

- A semi-detached bungalow
- Corner plot
- Refurbished to a high standard
- One Bedroom
- Modern kitchen & utility
- Shower room * Conservatory
- Garage & driveway parking
- EPC Rating - E

£132,500

COSELEY






Pugh Road, Woodcross

- A traditional style 3 bed semi
- Close by to local schools
- Ideal family home
- Open plan kitchen diner
- Lounge & conservatory
- THREE bedrooms
- Low maintenance garden
- Viewing highly recommended
- EPC Rating - TBC

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £131,950

DUDLEY





Penny Royal Close, Lower Gornal

- Modern end of terrace
- Attractive, well presented
- Breakfast Kitchen
- TWO-bedroom
- Ideal for first time buyers
- Close to Milking Bank
- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- EPC Rating - D

£126,950

LANESFIELD



Ward Grove,

- A BEAUTIFUL Bungalow
- Completely re-designed to a high standard
- Extended Lounge
- Open plan style kitchen area
- Beautiful landscaped garden
- VIEWING highly recommended
- EPC Rating - TBC

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £149,950

DUDLEY



Bradfield Way,

- A MODERN townhouse
- Approximately 3/4 years old
- Under NHBC guarantee
- breakfast kitchen
- THREE bedrooms
- Well maintained rear garden
- IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY
- EPC Rating - B

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £139,950

UPPER GORNAL



Pale Street,

- A 2 bedroom semi-detached
- MODERN dining kitchen
- Recently built conservatory
- Wet room and utility
- Two double bedrooms
- Fantastic size rear garden
- Ideal FIRST TIME BUY
- EPC Rating - E

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £124,950

41 DUDLEY STREET, SEDGLEY



Dormston Lodge,

- A most attractive, modern, ground floor 2 bedroom apartment
- Conveniently situated in the heart of Sedgley Town.
- Well proportioned and well presented.
- Parking area.
- Electric gates to both front & rear.
- EPC Rating - TBC

ASKING PRICE £120,000

HIGH HOLBORN, SEDGLEY

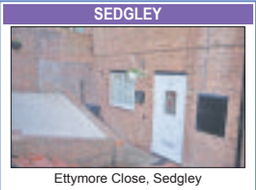


Holborn House,

- A most attractive duplex apartment
- Situated in the heart of Sedgley Town
- Uniquely designed layout over 2 floors
- Feature double height ceilings
- One bedroom and two bathrooms
- Another reception room (office/playroom)
- Communal ROOF TERRACE
- Secure parking area
- AN IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY
- EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £114,950

SEDGLEY



Ettymore Close, Sedgley

- A spacious Maisonette
- Central to Sedgley
- Set over 2 floors
- Two good size bedrooms
- Kitchen & Lounge
- An ideal investment property
- EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £80,000

Taylors

the property professionals

Kingswinford 01384 401777 | Brierley Hill 01384 265265 | Sedgley 01902 880888

Also at Stourbridge and Halesowen



GORNAL WOOD, Hopyard Lane

STUNNING QUALITY! Freehold, gas centrally heated & double glazed detached presented in exemplary order comprsing; reception hall, cloakroom, sitting room with quality inter-war Minster fireplace, magnificent dining kitchen, dining room, CONSERVATORY, utility room. Principal bedroom with shower room en suite, three further bedrooms, bathroom, large garage, alarm systems, garden parking. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £325,000



WALL HEATH, Brook Street

BACKING ONTO FIELDS, this SUBSTANTIAL and DECEPTIVE DETACHED FAMILY HOME offers an IMMACULATE 'SHOW HOME' style layout, all INCREDIBLY SPACIOUS and BEAUTIFULLY RE-APPOINTED including FOUR LARGE DOUBLE BEDROOMS. The property is set back beyond the LARGE DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and enjoying a BEAUTIFULLY LAID OUT REAR GARDEN. EPC D

£315,000



LOWER GORNAL, Straits Road

FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOMS! Enviably situated upon LARGE CORNER PLOT (with extensive parking, garaging and a large car port), an Imposing, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached within walking distance of the village presented in superb order comprising; hall, lounge, dining room, utility room, fitted cloakroom, well equipped kitchen with clear breakfast room section. Gallery landing, four double bedrooms, bathroom. Gardens. EPC:D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £311,950



SEDGLEY, The Ridgeway

Superbly presented detached property benefitting from central heating and double glazing. EXTENDED family home boasts porch, hallway, good-sized living room, refitted kitchen with open-plan dining room, guest W/C, utility room, bathroom, FOUR BEDROOMS, garage.Enclosed rear garden with SUMMER HOUSE, driveway to front and MAGNIFICENT PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS to the rear. EPC:E. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £269,950



WORDSLEY, Lawnswood Road

Delightfully situated upon the countryside fringe of Wordsley within this cul de sac section of a highly sought after address, this DISTINCTIVE LARGE DETACHED DORMER BUNGALOW offers a very generous THREE BEDROOM layout which requires some updating, yet provides FANTASTIC POTENTIAL FOR IMPROVEMENT / PERSONALISATION, plus a tarmac driveway, Carport, GARAGE and an attractively landscaped garden. EPC F

New price £259,950



LOWER GORNAL, Sandyfields Road, Straits

REMARKABLY SPACIOUS! tremendously modernised, ENLARGED, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached family home with exceptionally flexible room arrangements presented in superb order throughout comprising; reception hall, L shape living/dining room, kitchen, dining room (alternative fourth bedroom?), third bedroom, "wet-room", toilet. To the first floor are; two dormer bedrooms & shower room. Garage, sheltered rear garden and panoramic distant views. EPC: E SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £245,000



DUDLEY, Sedgefield Close, Milking Bank

NO UPWARD CHAIN. An attractive, imposing & particularly spacious, Freehold, gas centrally heated detached family residence occupying a fine corner plot in favoured district. Offering potential, the accommodation includes; entrance porch, reception hall, fitted cloakroom, lounge with bay, dining room, kitchen. Four bedrooms (one with ensuite), bathroom. LARGE 36 FT GARAGE, sheltered rear garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £233,500



WOODSETTON, Calder Rise

Attractive, meticulously maintained, freehold, gas centrally heated, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED Detached in short favoured cul-de-sac. Comprising: Reception hall, fitted cloakroom, lounge, dining room, refitted kitchen with a fine range of units and integrated appliances, three bedrooms, re-appointed shower room (former bathroom) lengthy garage with extensive parking, landscaped 'low maintenance' rear garden. EPC: C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £219,000



DUDLEY, Balmoral View, Milking Bank

Significantly enhanced, improved, Freehold gas centrally heated 'oak effect' UPVC double glazed detached at head of driveway offering further potential accommodation includes porch, hallway, lounge, breakfast kitchen, store, 'activities room', inner 'office section', cloakroom. Three bedrooms, bathroom with white contemporary style suite, garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £186,950



LOWER GORNAL, Wallows Wood

Tremendously modernised, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached that has been comprehensively modernised in recent years at head of cul-de-sac with porch, hall, and "open plan" accommodation incorporating lounge section (with bay), dining room section (with French doors out to garden), and a refitted kitchen section. Three bedrooms, bathroom. parking, "sun trap" side/rear garden. EPC:D SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £180,000



KINGSWINFORD, Gladstone Grove

A WELL PRESENTED SEMI DETACHED HOUSE, placed within sought after Charterfields, offering a SPACIOUS layout with Hall, WC, Large lounge/ dining area, Kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS and Re Fitted Bathroom. Front/ side Driveway, GARAGE and rear garden. EPC D

No upward chain £179,950



SEDGLEY, Wolverhampton Road

Traditional gas centrally heated and either UPVC single or double glazed semi detached of character with many period features having been conscientiously maintained over the years but now offering further potential. Accommodation includes entrance porch, imposing reception hall (lofty ceiling height), pantry, lunge with bay, dining room, kitchen, verandah, three bedrooms, bathroom, separate toilet, lengthy garage, garden. EPC:TBA SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £170,000



PENSNETT, Corbyns Hall Road

This SPACIOUS & TRADITIONAL, THREE BEDROOM, DETACHED HOME comprises: Reception Hall, TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, Kitchen, Three Good First Floor Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Driveway, Excellent Garage, Guests W.C and Large Rear Garden. EPC D

£169,950



NETHERTON, Saltwells Road

CASH BUYERS ONLY: A FANTASTIC opportunity to purchase an EXTENDED, DOUBLE FRONTED, DETACHED HOME comprising: Porch, Hall, TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, Kitchen, Utility, TWO DOUBLE FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS, Bathroom, Driveway, Garage, LARGE GARDEN. EPC D

New price £130,000



PENSNETT, Tansey Green Road

Pleasantly located within this established address, enjoying fantastic open rear views, this GENEROUS SEMI DETACHED FAMILY HOUSE offers a spacious THREE BEDROOM layout, requiring some updating, plus a good sized driveway and a large level garden. EPC E

New price £129,950



PENSNETT, Tansey Green Road

Within this exclusive cul de sac section of this sought after address, this MODERN TWO BEDROOM MID TERRACE HOUSE offers a well presented layout including a CONSERVATORY, plus an ALLOCATED PARKING SPACE and a landscaped low maintenance garden. EPC C

£129,950



SEDGLEY, Lime Road

A delightfully presented semi detached property located on a corner plot in the popluar area of Sedgley. Benefiting from double glazing and central heating this lovely starter home also boasts, hallway, living room, dining room, kitchen, utility/ storage room, guest W/C, TWO BEDROOMS, fitted bathroom, attractive enclosed rear garden and driveway to front. Viewing highly recommended. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £124,950



COSELEY, George Road

Situated on a corner position, this good-sized semi-detached property does offer plenty of potential. Benefiting from central heating and double glazing, this ideal starter home also boasts; entrance hall, living room, kitchen-diner, TWO BEDROOMS, bathroom with separate W/C, detached garage, enclosed rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN.EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £114,950

Taylors
the property professionals
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Brierley Hill 01384 265265
Sedgley 01902 880888
Also at Stourbridge and Halesowen



SEDGLEY, Alder Coppice, Northway

ENVIABLY SITUATED upon corner plot in favoured location; a magnificent, spacious, stylish, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached family residence comprising; hall, fitted cloakroom, superb through living room (with multi fuel burner) & patio doors, study (alternative bedroom four), superb through refitted "hub of the house" dining kitchen with a fine range of integrated appliances, utility room, various stores. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Double garage, delightful garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in excess of £299,950



PENN COMMON, Sedgley Road

Gas centrally heated, double glazed Edwardian Cottage that has been tremendously renovated & with many period features on periphery of conservation area. Enjoying a secluded rear garden & with extensive parking & TWO GARAGES, comprising; hallway, dining room, sitting room, kitchen, pantry.Three bedrooms, bathroom. Boiler room. expertly tendered gardens. EPC: E. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £295,000

New

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT

SEDGLEY, Ettymore Road

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT - Enviably situated within immediate walking distance of the Bull Ring just TWO - gas centrally heated, UPVC double glazed two double bedroom homes nearing completion to a first quality specification. Accommodation to include hallway, fitted cloakroom, well equipped kitchen (granite work surfaces and various integrated appliances), living/dining room, two double bedrooms (one with wardrobe), bathroom with stylish white suite, secluded rear garden, parking to foregarden.
Prices £142,500 and £145,000. PLEASE REGISTER INTEREST WITH TAYLORS SEDGLEY OFFICE.



SEDGLEY, 'Algar Grange', Off Dudley Road

SHOW HOME NOW OPEN FOR VIEWINGS BY APPOINTMENT. With construction now nearing completion, and just 6 plots available for sale, an exciting new development of gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed BUNGALOWS so conveniently situated for Sedgley's Bull Ring & all associated amenities. Three designs available with prices from £218,500 up to £279,000 -Further details with Agents Sedgley Office. SAP: T.B.A.

PRICES FROM £218,500



LOWER GORNAL, Shakespeare Road, Straits

Spacious, Freehold, gas centrally heated (combi boiler) & majority uPVC double glazed detached bungalow within reasonable walking distance of so many day -to-day amenities briefly comprising porch, central reception hall, cloaks, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, lounge, breakfast kitchen, pantry, store, through lobby. Brick garage (automated door), secluded rear garden. EPC. D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £215,000



COSELEY, Crowesbridge Mews

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Fantastically well presented detached home with central heating & double glazing located in popular cul-de-sac. THREE BEDROOM property is tastefully extended & benefits from porch, hallway, breakfast-kitchen, utility room, open-plan lounge, sunroom, bathroom, master bedroom with ensuite, garage/ storage, garden, driveway. EPC:C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £209,950

New



BILSTON, Weston Drive

Superbly presented, detached located on the popular Village Way estate in Bilston. Benefiting from central heating& double glazing this good sized DETACHED family home also comprises; hall, living room, dining room, guest W/C, fitted kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, ensuite to master, family bathroom, garage, workshop garden, driveway for multiple vehicles to front. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £199,950

New



KINGSWINFORD, Booth Close

Backing onto attractive woodland, this EXTENDED MODERN SEMI-DETACHED HOME enjoys this pleasant cul de sac location and offers a generous, attractively improved THREE BEDROOM layout with an EN-SUITE, plus a large driveway and an attractive garden. EPC D

£189,950



KINGSWINFORD, Cottage Street

Located close to the heart of Kingswinford, this SUBSTANTIAL, 'PERIOD' SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME offers an INCREDIBLY GENEROUS layout which includes TWO LARGE RECEPTION ROOMS and THREE EXCELLENT SIZED BEDROOMS. With narrow DRIVEWAY and a VERY LARGE REAR GARDEN. EPC D

New price £164,950

New



PENSNETT, Tansey Green Road

A LARGE 3 BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE which has been EXTENDED and RECENTLY REFURBISHED throughout, including an NEW KITCHEN and BATHROOM. The property has been REDECORATED and includes NEW CARPETS. With DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and rear garden. EPC D

No upward chain £159,950



LOWER GORNAL, Grosvenor Road

VERY FLEXIBLE ACCOMMODATION! - Surprisingly spacious, Freehold, gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed dormer style detached within walking distance of so many amenities & enjoying good distant views comprising; entrance porch, reception hall, lounge, kitchen, conservatory, THREE BEDROOMS (en suite to master), two large garages, front and rear gardens. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £150,000



COSELEY, Berrington Drive

ENLARGED gas centrally heated double glazed THREE BEDROOM semi detached virtually at head of cul-de-sac briefly comprising; hallway, lounge, kitchen with an extensive range of 'Old English Cream' finish units and 'office section' off together with fitted cloakroom, CONSERVATORY, three bedrooms, shower room with white suite, shortened garage, garden. EPC :D. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £148,000

New



KINGSWINFORD, Market Street

Within walking distance of village shops, this BEAUTIFULLY IMPROVED MID TERRACE HOME is further enhanced by the large rear garden and offers a WELL APPOINTED layout, including two Reception Rooms and TWO GOOD BEDROOMS Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC C

No upward chain £139,950



UPPER GORNAL, Sunnybank Road

SPACIOUS gas centrally heated UPVC double glazed semi detached WITH POTENTIAL in popular district. Having been conscientiously maintained over the years but now requiring some sympathetic updating the accommodation offering reception hall, store, through living room, dining room, kitchen, WC, further store. Three double bedrooms, bathroom, wide corner plot with sheltered rear garden. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY.

New price WAS £115,000,NOW £104,950



DUDLEY, Walters Row

Gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed, semi detached with vacant possession overlooking park in a convenient/established district. Accommodation provides; kitchen, living/dining room. Two double bedrooms, bathroom. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £100,000

New



BROCKMOOR, Campbell Street

This ATTRACTIVE & EXPENSIVELY APPOINTED, EXTENDED, PERIOD STYLE, TERRACE HOME oozes CHARACTER and CHARM & comprises: MODERN WELL FITTED KITCHEN, Pretty garden, White Suite Bathroom, Lounge, TWO GOOD FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS, USEFUL UTILITY! EPC: C

£94,950

New



BRIERLEY HILL, Victoria Street

This RATHER CHARMING, TWO BEDROOM, END-TERRACE HOME is available for sale with NO UPWARD CHAIN & briefly comprises: Three Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Shower Room, Two Large First Floor Bedrooms & Pretty Garden. EPC.

£90,000



BRIERLEY HILL, Hawbush Road

This MOST APPEALING & EASILY MAINTAINABLE, GROUND FLOOR, MAISONETTE is available for sale with NO UPWARD CHAIN & comprises: Attractive Lounge, Modern Kitchen, Generous Double Bedroom, White Suite Bathroom, Communal Parking & Grounds. EPC D

Now available £59,950



Detached house has four double bedrooms

WOLVERHAMPTON
£330,000

A substantial modern family-sized detached residence in Coton Road, Wolverhampton, lies in a highly-regarded location.

Having generous, well maintained living space, it is for sale through Butters John Bee at £330,000. It has an entrance hall, a cloakroom/WC, a living room, a dining room, a breakfast kitchen, utility, four double bedrooms, two en-suites, a bathroom, gas-fired central heating and double glazing, a double garage and a private rear garden. In more detail, the living room is generous in size and has a bay window and wooden flooring. The breakfast kitchen comes with an integrated fridge and freezer, built-in oven, hob and extractor fan. The generous private and enclosed rear garden has lawn and a timber deck area.

Contact Butters John Bee on 01902 710888 or visit buttersjohnbee.com









Stylish home is expensively appointed detached

DUDLEY
£234,950 <<<

Substantial and stylishly decorated, this four-bedroomed detached property in St. Peters Road, Netherton, is expensively appointed.

It is for sale through Taylors at £234,950.

The property is beautifully presented and has a modern decor. It comprises a large reception hall, a guest cloakroom, attractive sitting room with a feature fireplace, a stylish dining room, an office/study, useful utility, superb breakfast kitchen with integrated appliances. There is also a double glazed conservatory. Upstairs are four first bedrooms (a master with en suite) and a family white suite bathroom,

Outside is a block paved driveway, a garage store and a private rear garden.

Contact Taylors on 01902 880888 or visit www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk

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Land/Development Opportunities

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at Aston Villa Football Ground



50 Cemetery Road, Willenhall
2 Bedroom End Terraced Property
Guide: £29,000 - £34,000



66 Grace Road, Tipton
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £74,000 - £78,000



127 Lyde Green, Halesowen
3 Bedroom Detached House
Guide: £120,000 plus



6a Chestnut Court, Villa Street, Stourbridge
1 Bed Ground Floor Apartment
Guide: £58,000 - £64,000



Flat 7 Stockton Court, Mason Street, Bilston
1 Bed Second Floor Apartment
Guide: £20,000 - £25,000



87 Stourbridge Road, Dudley
Residential Investment Property
Current Gross Income: £26,520 pa
Guide: £150,000 - £160,000

**Development potential is subject to obtaining the necessary planning consents*
Please note charges may apply in addition to the purchase price on some lots
For a definition of Guide Price & Reserve price please refer to our catalogue or website

New lease of life for Grand C4

By Simon Davis

Only a particularly keen eye would be able to tell the difference between the new Grand C4 Picasso and the second-generation model that arrived in 2013.

Its exterior retains the familiar shape of the old car, but features a number of subtle tweaks that help keep it looking fresh and up-to-date.

As you would expect from a car designed purely for carting vast numbers of children to and from school and sports practice, the new Picasso can be specified with a raft of active safety systems. These include Speed Limit Sign Recognition, and Active Land Departure Warning to name but a few.

Generally speaking, large MPVs aren't the best looking cars on the road. However, Citroën seems to have this area nailed – the Grand C4 Picasso is definitely one of the better-looking people movers currently available on the market.

A suite of very subtle updates that would be difficult to notice on their own make an appearance on the new car. Changes include a redesigned front end, 3D-effect rear lights, rear chevrons finished in gloss black with chrome surrounds and new 18-inch alloy wheels. Together, these add up to an end product that is a marked improvement.

At the end of the day, an MPV is never really going to be considered a cool car, even one as attractive as the Grand C4 Picasso. That said, cars like this will always place function over form. The added bonus with the big Citroën is that you don't have to compromise too much in the form department if you've got a load of children to ferry around.

This is the Grand C4 Picasso's piece de resistance. A seven-seat layout means you'll be popular with other parents on the school run, and should help prevent any squabbles from breaking out on longer journeys with the family.The middle row of seats can fold flat to increase boot space, and can slide back and forth to allow for more legroom in the third row. The two third row seats fold down into the boot floor, allowing for 645 litres of storage space in the boot when the second row of seats are in their forward-most position.

Another handy feature that has been introduced is a hands-free tailgate. Simply wave your foot underneath the rear bumper and the boot will pop open, meaning you can load the car up easily even when your hands are full.

The Grand C4 Picasso isn't exactly a small car, although it masks its size rather well. Thanks to plenty of forward visibility out of the large windscreen and a raised driving position, you don't really feel like you're behind the wheel of a big people mover.

To drive, the Picasso is very manageable. At low speeds, the steering is quick enough to allow you to manoeuvre into tighter parking spaces, and features like a rear parking camera mean you shouldn't bump into any obstructions.

The seats are comfortable, supportive and easily adjustable – although depending on your body frame, the driving position might be a tad awkward. The steering wheel is quite far away, while the pedals are right under your feet.

There is a fair amount of wind noise at motorway speeds, owing largely to the boxy shape of the car, and the 18-inch alloys fitted to our test car also created a fair amount of tyre roar. For the most part, the four-cylinder diesel engine is unobtrusive and refined, although it does create a bit of a racket under heavy acceleration.

Any lumps and bumps on the surface of the road are dealt with by the Citroën's supple suspension set-up, although this does lead to a dash of body roll through the corners.

In terms of bang for your buck, in Flair trim makes a good case for itself. It comes with a wealth of handy features as standard, including the new 3D Citroën Nav system. This incorporates mapping data from TomTom that can be displayed through either the seven-inch touchscreen in the middle of the dash, or the 12-inch display on the upper dash. Other features include front and rear parking sensors, cruise control, dual-zone air conditioning, DAB radio and Bluetooth and USB connectivity. Mirror Link and Car Play – which are included as standard – help to make connecting your smartphone that much easier.



Its exterior retains the familiar shape of the old car, but features a number of subtle tweaks that help keep it looking fresh and up-to-date

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DRIVETIME



Unusual replica, it's brick-built!

Caterham has revealed its newest model, but it's not quite how you'd imagine.

Far from being a high-powered sports car crafted from steel and aluminium, this 620R is created from something slightly different – LEGO.

It is the first time that a Caterham has been made from the iconic plastic bricks, with this model standing 10cm tall and 28cm long.

All-in-all, it is made up of 770 pieces, making it a challenge for even the most experienced modeller.

The kit even includes a replica Caterham engine and gear stick.

There's also a removable nose cone and engine cover, as well as functioning axle standard and a working steering wheel.

The car was originally submitted to the LEGO ideas platform, where it gained 10,000 votes. The LEGO Ideas Review team then chose the 620R to go into full production.

David Ridley, Caterham chief commercial officer, said: "Caterham has always prided itself on producing bespoke, hand-built cars for its customers.

"Our army of fans who build their own Caterham Sevens are equally discerning when it comes to the detail and craftsmanship which is central to Caterham, and we worked closely with the LEGO team to ensure the model replicated that.

"The LEGO 620R has various unique features – the intricately-designed engine was certainly a surprise when we lifted the bonnet for the first time. It's really satisfying to know that fans can recreate and build their own 620R with LEGO bricks."

Priced at £69, the Caterham LEGO 620R will be available to buy now.

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Audi clearly connected to values of real world





By Ian Donaldson

FORGET the acceleration times or how far the car goes on a gallon, for some potential owners the way their iPhone hooks up is the decider.

Or, as the man from Audi said about the newly update A3 range, "to some younger customers being connected is more important than the car itself."

So, younger customers rejoice! This workover of Audi's biggest selling range brings extra standard kit and the possibility (at extra cost, it's an Audi, remember) of keeping yourself connected like never before.

With four body styles to choose from - three and five-door hatch (Sportback in Audi speak), saloon and cabriolet - and six engines on offer, there ought to be a car to suit most upwardly mobile people in search of a classy set of wheels.

Priced from £19,365, the latest A3 comes with a mild rejig on the outside and more bits inside, including cruise control, auto lights and wipers and a multi-function steering wheel.

You have to move up the range, or pay for extras to appreciate all the new techno upgrades, which can include what Audi calls a digital cockpit; really a high definition screen replacing conventional dials that you can make display the sat nav with cinema screen clarity or let the instruments dominate.

The entry level A3 is a three-door hatch with 1.0 litre petrol engine and SE trim but not many people will be tempted, heading instead to the Sport (+£1,550) and the S line (+£2,150), where bigger alloys, styling tweaks inside and out and LED headlights (and natty rear indicators that flash in a bulb-sweeping action) mark the car out as the range topper.

Clever

You'll find satellite navigation on all but the SE but find £995 for a technology pack and you'll add high speed 4G internet access via a SIM card with no data charge, Google Earth and Street View and Twitter.

If you're mobile phone is clever enough you can pop it in the Audi Phone Box between the front seats, where it charges itself without needing to be plugged in and works through the car's own aerial for a better reception.

Oh, and there's 10GB of hard drive memory for every song you've ever bought and need to download to the car. So you'll stay very connected indeed to your life outside your Audi.

Add a driver assistance pack for £1,950 and an auto-geared A3 will slow to a halt and start off again all by itself, maintain a safe distance behind the vehicle ahead at cruising speed and briefly steer the car at speeds up to 37mph.

There are a couple of option boxes you can tick without adding to the price of your car - to delete the badges on the back to keep your engine details to yourself, or to delete the lowered, stiffened suspension that comes with an S line package. Two paint colours cost nothing extra either (solid white or black) although everything else costs £550, or £775 for a crystal effect black.

Alongside a carried over selection of engines there's the first application in the A3 of the Volkswagen Group's feisty 1.0 litre three-cylinder petrol engine and a new 2.0 petrol power unit with 190 horsepower and coupled to a new seven-speed automatic gearbox.

As ever, slipping into the latest A3 reinforces the company's reputation for building cars as well finished as anything near the price; this is a high quality environment in which to spend hours of your life at a stretch.

Choose the popular 2.0 litre diesel and S line trim and you'll have a car that shrugs off the miles, the engine a distant thrum as the suspension stays firmly in contact with the road, doing its best with big alloy wheels and stiffened springs to smooth your path.

Lesser versions with smaller wheels - or an S line on the optional softer suspension - would ride more serenely but lack the positive edge to the steering that makes the A3 feel taut and... connected.

The trip computer showed 54.9mpg after a brief but spirited drive. Combine that with the way the car is predicted to hang on to its value as the months roll by and this new Audi is clearly connected to real world values.

TESTED

Audi A3 Sportback 2.0 TDI S line 150 PS

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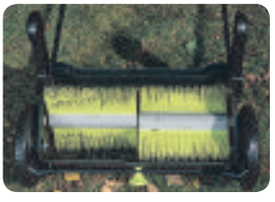
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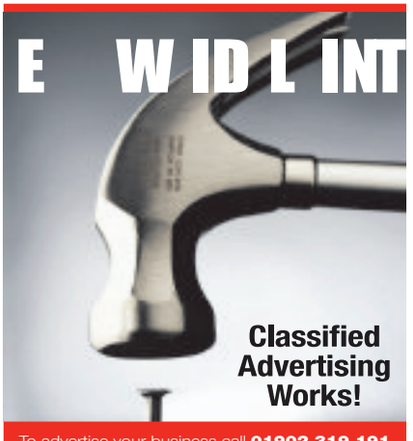
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4 Pets & Animals

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3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

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business directory

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6 Property

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NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

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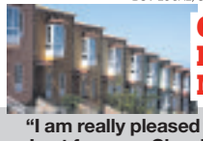
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8 Motoring

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£1,000 ono.
07812 004960.



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1.9 JTD Eleganza, 2006, 2 owners, 83,000 miles, MoT till June 2017, very clean.
£1,400 ono.
07730 596969.

IDEAL FIRST CAR
FIAT SEICENTO S
Y Reg., 2002, 1108cc.
3Dr hatchback.
Blue, only 37,000 miles, MoT, radio/CD.
Economical, very reliable.
Very good condition all round.
£475 o.n.o.
07491 068850.

EXCELLENT CONDITION
FORD FIESTA ZETEC
3dr hatchback, black, alloy wheels, 11 months MoT, 77,568 miles, registered 2004, 1388cc, nice all round condition, new battery.
£1,200 ono.
01902 331658 or 07973 799218.

IDEAL FIRST CAR
FORD FOCUS
1.6, 2003, 5-door.
Blue, 96,000 miles.
MoT till June 2017.
Good condition / Good runner.
£750 ono.
0121 561 1548.
07532 188042.

BARGAIN
FORD FOCUS 1.8
2001, 150,000 miles, black, ABS, EW, Air Bag, alarm, MoT, CL, alloys and stereo.
£400
07753 243403.

MUST BE SEEN
FORD FOCUS GHIA ZETEC
1800cc, 5-dr, S reg, service history, 103,000 miles, MoT Jan 2017, recent new tyres, superb to drive.
Very good condition.
£450 ono.
07983 235854.
0121 532 0175.

BARGAIN
FORD KA 1.3
02 reg, blue, 54,000 miles, 1 previous owner, service history, 12 months MoT, very good condition.
£595 ono.
Telephone 01746 862982 or 07932 468704.

MUST BE SEEN
HONDA CIVIC SPORT
3dr hatchback,
Metallic blue.
Needs a bit of TLC.
£600 ono.
07737 879856.

NISSAN ALMERA SE 2005 5dr petrol, 67,900m, AC, PAS, CL, Electric windows, CD MoTJan17, £450 ono 07855 309326.

NISSAN TERRANO MK2 2000 X Reg, 6 months MoT, new tyres, runs well, colour blue £895 ono. 01902 658007.

PEUGEOT 206 INDEPENDENT, 54 reg, CD player, alloys, MoT, £550. Telephone 01902 429693 or 07791 001414.

GOOD RUNNER
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07896 919610.

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1.8. Silver.
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FSH. All new parts.
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BARGAIN
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£1,400.
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cars over £1500



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1.6 JTDM Lusso 120BHP, 2009, Black, 77K Miles, Diesel, FSH, 6 Months MOT, Bluetooth, a/c, Great MPG, Good Condition.
£3,825.00 ono
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5-dr, FSH, MoT June, 2 remote control keys, 15,630 miles, mechanically warranted, usual standard features, free tax.
£9,750 ono.
07916 252817.



CLIO EXPRESSION DIESEL
2008, 92,000 miles, fsh £30 tax, abs, fsh, long MoT, central locking, pas, diesel, Alloys 3 door
£1,799.
07879 403302.

LOW MILEAGE
FORD FIESTA STUDIO 60
3dr hatch, 09 plate, 1.242cc, metallic blue, 12 months MoT, 23,000 miles, no service history.
£2,950 ono.
07949 510980 or 07714 800664.

MUST BE SEEN
MITSUBISH L200 DOUBLE CAB
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12 months MoT.
£1,800 ono.
07402 171702.

PRESTIGE
MERCEDES SL350 AUTOMATIC, CONVERTIBLE
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07836 204450.
deolsuk@hotmail.co.uk

EXCELLENT CONDITION
NISSAN MICRA
3dr, 2005, 1 lady owner from new, l
ow mileage, 47,000.
£1,995 ovno.
07980 165680.

★★★
NISSAN NOTE 1.6 ACENTA
58 reg. 5 door.
Lady driver.
Bronze.
Good condition.
£1,950 ono.
01902 747180 / 07774 898966.

PEUGEOT 207, 56 reg, 1360cc, lady owner, red, with red/black interior, full MoT, low mileage, good condition, £1,950. Offers. 07973 483797.



RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE DIESEL
2007, 74,000 miles, fsh £30 tax , air con, fsh, diesel, panaramic sunroof, reverse sensors alloys
£1,799.
07879 403302.



TOYOTA AYGO BLUE
2008, 87,070 Miles, blue, excellent Condition AC, Hands Free Bluetooth, MoT till March 2017.
£1,900
07754082361

TOYOTA COROLLA T3 1.6, 2005, 55,000 Miles, 5 Door, metalic blue, 7 months MoT, Toyota service history £2,300 07870 611402

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£3,000 ono.
Telephone 07923 191378 or 01384 457219.



VW GOLF 1.4TSI
Petrol, 122PS, MATCH Edition, 2008, 38,700 miles, black, ipod/iphone input, new tyres, taxed, 11 months MoT, full service history.
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ClassifiedAds



VW POLO 1.2 S
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£1,800 ono.
07538 750391.

classic cars

CLASSIC CAR
LANDROVER SERIES 2A
SWB, 1969, 2.25 petrol, extensively restored, 11 months MoT, tax exempt,
Classic insurance.
£3,900 ovno.
Stourbridge 07711 661068.

BARGAIN
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1968, running restoration project (95% completed), lots of money spent, photo evidence of work undertaken. Currently on SORN. V5 present.
£1,250
01384 829744 / 07966 630912.

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vehicles wanted

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spares & accessories

spares/parts

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to **Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk** (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10 Personals

general

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personal

ATTRACTIVE lonely Female seeking broadminded males within a 20 mile radius. 01902 489 181.

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Box Number P20566, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

SINGLE MALE 40
Own house, car and business, non smoker, Wolverhampton area, seeks single girl, 25 to 40 for nights out and possible relationship.
Box Number P20561 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

★★★
50 YEAR OLD MAN
Own house and car, very honest, very hard working, likes meals out and very homely seeking female aged 45-50 years with similar interests.
Genuine replies only.
Box Number P20567 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

sports clubs

UNDER 15'S GOALKEEPER WANTED URGENT !
Black Country Snipers Under 15's are looking for a Goalkeeper. We play Sunday afternoons in Sandwell League. Train on Friday evenings.
If interested please contact
Gary on 07814 877726.

SELL IT FAST SELL IT LOCAL
01902 317878

ClassifiedAds

Advertising Standards Authority
ASA

Jas told her mates the party was really cnckfg o i (It really wasn't)

We all bend the truth now and then. But advertisers are not allowed to. If an ad isn't legal, decent, honest and truthful it must not run.





Hawkins, front row, left, with the Wolves squad ahead of the First Division season in August 1983



Hawkins as a player in 1963



Hawkins pictured three years ago



Celebrations as Wolves are promoted at the end of the 82/83 season



Hawkins with Derek Dougan and John Ireland back in 1983

Dedicated ex-boss made life better for patients

MEL EVES has led the tributes to 'one of the greats' Graham Hawkins, who died last week at the age of 70.

Hawkins won promotion with Wolves both as a player and a manager, graduating through the club from a boyhood fan to boss the team he once watched from the terraces.

And Eves described Hawkins – who raised money for fellow cancer patients at Shrewsbury's Royal Hospital after being diagnosed with non-Hodgkin Lymphoma in 2009 – as 'a pleasure to be around'.

After being relegated from Division One at the end of the 1981/82 season, Hawkins was the man tasked with getting Wolves straight back to the promised land.

Hawkins, who helped the team gain promotion to the top flight as player in 1967, arrived from Shrewsbury, where he served as an assistant to Graham Turner, to take the reins at Molineux – and succeeded immediately.

Moulded

Wolves finished second – 10 points behind Queens Park Rangers – to go back up at the first time of asking, with the likes of Eves, Andy Gray and Kenny Hibbitt starring.

"It is a really sad loss," said Eves. "He moulded a great team. There was a really good mix of senior pros and young lads in the side.

"He did a really good job with players such as Andy Gray, Kenny Hibbitt, myself, John Humphrey, Dale Rudge, Ian Cartwright, Bobby Coy.

"We did really well to get promoted and there was a really great team spirit there among the players.

"I finished top scorer that season and he had the faith to put me up front alongside Andy Gray.

"It was just unfortunate in the following season he was left out to dry," Eves added. "We probably needed three or four more players so that was disappointing for everybody."

Wolves struggled in the following season, back in the top flight, and Hawkins was sacked in April 1984 with the club heading for the first of three successive relegations.

It was a dark period for the club which almost resulted in extinction.

After management, Hawkins worked for the Football League as head of youth development, helping hundreds of young footballers make the grade as professionals.

"When Graham was in his role with the Football League, he always conducted himself impeccably – he was very professional," Eves said.

"He was really easy to get on with and a pleasure to be around.

"I think the last time I saw him as at the London Wolves 50th anniversary, which was not long ago. I knew he had been struggling for a while but he managed to do an awful lot of fundraising."

Laurie Dalrymple, managing director of Wolves, said: "Graham made a huge contribution not only to Wolves but to football in general during his career. He was widely respected and well-liked, both inside and outside of football. It was typical of the man that he spent his final years raising money for fellow cancer sufferers at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital."

Hawkins is survived by wife Jane, sons Ian and Richard and grandchildren Lauren, Amy, Holly and Louisa.

Royal Shrewsbury Hospital staff described Hawkins' fundraising efforts as 'magnificent'.

Dr Sheena Khanduri, clinical lead for cancer services at The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, said: "The trust has lost a great friend and supporter.

"Graham's magnificent fundraising efforts really helped to improve the experience of our patients.

"His fundraising efforts included donating iPads which offered a distraction and something else for patients to think about whilst they receive their treatment in our Haematology Day Centre and the Chemotherapy Day Centre at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

Legendary

"On behalf of the trust I would like to pass on my condolences to Graham's family."

Mr Hawkins was in the dugout at the Gay Meadow in the early 1980s alongside legendary manager Graham Turner before his move to Molineux.

Brian Caldwell, chief executive at Shrewsbury Town, said: "Graham will be remembered by many Shrewsbury Town fans for the work he did alongside Graham Turner as his assistant manager.

"It was a spell where the club played at the highest level in English football so far and Graham is remembered fondly by Town fans for being part of that.

"The thoughts of everyone at the club are with Graham's wife, Jane, his sons, Ian and Richard and the rest of his family and friends at this sad time."

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Joe Edwards

"It was typical of the man that he spent his final years raising money for fellow cancer sufferers."

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An Express & Star supplement

Express & Star



Gloves off in Eggington v Gavin clash

THE gloves are off between Sam Eggington and Frankie Gavin as the fighting talk begins for their long-awaited clash this month.

The increasingly-fierce rivals will contest the WBC International welterweight title in the main event at the Barclaycard Arena on Saturday October 22.

The contest was due to take place at the same venue in October last year. It will, again, be live on Sky Sports.

The first build-up, prior to Gavin's withdrawal with a foot injury, had been relatively sedate but words were exchanged during the first head-to-head at the arena this time.

Stourbridge's Eggington claimed he'd been called 'dim' and 'dumb' by Gavin in an interview and vowed to make him pay for those comments.

Eggington said: "I don't mind a bit of criticism, it comes with anything. But when it's personal, I have a problem with that. I'm in a different mindset now and I'll be looking to knock him out."

Gavin said: "What I meant was my opinion that Sam has limited boxing ability, which I've stated on many occasions before. I've got superior skills and I think I'll have far too much for him."

Promoter Eddie Hearn has revealed Brummie Craig Cunningham, who lives in Oldbury, and Halesowen's Lennox Clarke, will appear on the under-card.

An all-Birmingham title fight will see Gamal Yafai defend his Commonwealth super bantamweight strap against English boss Sean Davis.

Two English titles will also be contested with a rematch for Don Broadhurst and Louis Norman.

Midlands lightweight champion Marcus Ffrench fights Central area counterpart Robbie Barrett. Midlands light welter titlist Andy Keates makes his first area defence against Jordan Cooke.

Yeltz had to replay after late leveller blow in cup clash

Halesowen Town 1 Nantwich Town 1

HALESOWEN were forced to replay on Tuesday night for the prospect of facing Stourbridge after Kaiman Anderson's ninth goal of the season was pegged back by a late deflected goal in a game of few chances played in drenching rain in the presence of the Emirates FA Cup.

Ryan Brooke and Matt Bell both went close for the visitors before Sean Cooke caused danger with his 25th minute cross as Halesowen sat back. The Yeltz re-organised with the introduction of Ethan Delaney as an extra forward and he tested Nantwich 'keeper Dave Parton with a 41st minute low shot.

After the interval leading striker Anderson put Halesowen ahead after 62 minutes by slotting past Parton after collecting from substitute James Hancocks. Kyle Haynes went close in the 71st minute. But the visitors are unbeaten away and drew level in the 76th minute when captain Sam Hall's shot took a huge deflection off team-mate Josh Hancock to loop over stranded Platt. Nantwich almost won the tie in injury time when Theo Stair curled just wide.

Benbow spot on for Glassboys in FA Cup

Ilkeston 1 Stourbridge 2

FOOTBALL

LUKE Benbow lashed home a decisive penalty as Stourbridge fought back from a first-half deficit to win at Ilkeston in the FA Cup – and could now face Black Country neighbours Halesowen in the next qualifying round.

Glassboys talisman Leon Broadhurst cancelled out Rory Coleman's early effort before Benbow settled matters 13 minutes into the second half to put the visitors within one victory of a fifth appearance in the first round proper in eight seasons.

Chances were at a premium until Coleman headed the Robins in front from a Luis Rose delivery with 16 minutes on the clock of this third qualifying round tie. Undeterred, Stour got themselves on the front foot.

Drew Canavan threaded frontrunner Benbow down the right side of the penalty area but his shot was well saved by Ross Durrant. However, Dan Scarr won the initial header from Canavan's corner and Broadhurst arrived late to emphatically finish at the far post.

The Glassboys remained in charge in the second half with Kayelden Brown close to taking advantage of a mix up at the back but his decision to square for Chris Lait allowed a defender to get back and block. But when Lait was upended by Jak Kenworthy moments later, Benbow was on hand to slam home the penalty to give the visitors a deserved lead.

Ilkeston responded but it might have been three when Brown's defence-splitting diagonal ball picked out Lait to roll a shot past Durrant's far post.

Mark Shelton went close with a swinging 25-yard shot for the hosts but Stourbridge booked a place in the fourth qualifying round draw.

VICTORY GONE FOR A BURTON

Burton 20 DK 10

DUDLEY Kingswinford pressed early on but Burton raced from defence into attack and earned a penalty as the DK defence rushed back.

DK immediately hit back. Following a good period of attacking play they were rewarded by an offside penalty in front of the sticks and Gareth Bown maked it 3-3.

DK tested the Burton defence with phase play but they passed their test and when the roles were reversed a missed tackle led to Burton crossing the try line for a five pointer.

Moments later another DK attack is broken up and a long kick through, was well dealt with by full-back Tommy Walker, buying time for his team mates to get back and clear to touch.

On the half hour Burton made a telling break through the DK defence that once again led to a try, converted this time to give Burton a 15-3 lead at half time.

Pressure

The opening minutes of the second half saw DK stuck in their own 22 and despite some valiant defensive tackling the pressure led to a Burton try, making it3-20 with30 minutes to go.

James Fildes was replaced by Speedy Jefferson due to injury, and Pete Griffiths gave way to Matt Squires. DK then started to gain a territorial edge and were pressing Burton back at every opportunity. Arran Hudson halted a Burton run with a tackle that showed had the tide had turned.

DK were able to maintain pressure but were not able to work an opening through a Burton defence that was starting to bend rather that break.

By this time Liam Marshall was operating in the centre with Stef Shillingford and it was these two who combined to breach the Burton defence. Shillingford took the ball into contact and off-loading to Marshall who powered for the posts, a grubber as a tackle came in allowed Shillingford to dive on the ball for the try. 20-10 when Gareth Bown added the extras.

DK kept the pressure on and were rewarded with a kickable penalty in the final minute, but Gareth's kick slid agonisingly the wrong side of the posts.



Stefan Shillingford charges through the Burton defence as Dudley Kingswinford attempt a comeback

Yozza hits bullseye with England glory

TIPTON'S Jamie Hughes was part of the England men's side that were crowned team champions and came overall runners-up in the WDF Europe Cup.

Six titles were decided at the Hotel Zuiderduin in Egmond Aan Zee with 'Yozza' claiming one alongside Glen Durrant, Scott Mitchell and James Hurrell. The Black Country thrower also competed in the men's pairs and singles competitions, with Holland taking the overall accolade.

Hughes endured disappointment at the first hurdle in the singles, beaten 4-1 by Scotland's Ross Montgomery. Montgomery and Alan Soutar then beat Hughes and Durrant.

In the team event, Hughes, Durrant, Mitchell and Hurrell met Finland in the quarter-finals, to set up a semi-final tie against Northern Ireland where England triumphed 9-1 before then beating Holland in the final.

Heathens and Brummies in showdown

CRADLEY go into Monday's derby showdown with Birmingham looking to save their season.

The Heathens have been picked by their neighbours as play-off opponents after the Brummies ran away with the league leaders spot in the regular season.

The first leg is at Perry Barr tonight (Thursday) before Monday's second leg at Monmore.

If they miss out on Monday it is more than likely there will be no more home meetings as Heathens are massive underdogs in the Knockout Cup semi-final at Eastbourne.

It means the riders are under pressure to spring a surprise and beat the Brummies – or the curtain comes down on their first season back at Monmore.

"Birmingham are a very good team and they've got probably the best two reserves in the league in the two Jacks (Parkinson-Blackburn and Smith)," said Heathen Bradley Andrews.

"But my confidence has grown every week and I'll be doing what I can to go out there and beat them and get some points for the team.

"We know it's going to be tough against Birmingham because they've only lost one meeting all season. But if we can make some good starts and cut out the last places then I reckon we can push them much closer than we did in the league.

"We need to keep the scores as close as we can at their place and then we need to go for it at home. We've been a lot stronger at home all year really and we'd like to use that to our advantage again.

"Personally, I know I've learnt a lot this year. It was tough to start with but since I was dropped it gave me a kick up the backside and I feel a lot more confident."

It's a Biggs result at Bournemouth

THERE was more marathon action for athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club at the weekend as the autumn season picked up pace.

Matt Biggs produced another solid performance in the Bournemouth Marathon with a highly impressive 20th place in a time of 2.52.17.

A group travelled to Chester for their marathon around the city, across the border into Wales and back to the city's racecourse. Karen Doy was first home in 4.08.40 to take 1143rd place, Alison Whitehouse was 1318th in 4.18.18, Liz Hettle finished in 4.28.18 in 1449th and Gina Collins was 1752nd in 4.48.04.

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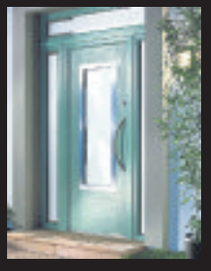
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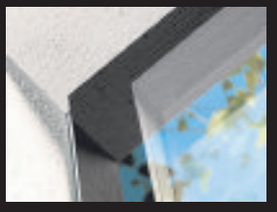
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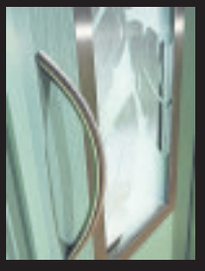
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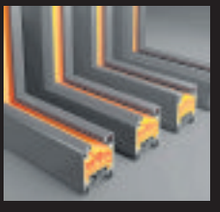
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Expansion pays off as sales soar...

DW Windows Ltd has gone from strength to strength over the last 12 months since renovating its new premises in Meadow Lane, Coseley, creating one of the largest showrooms in the Midlands and generating 14 new jobs for local people.

The company's turnover has increased by 30 per cent and is well on target to double in the next couple of years.

Proud

The new state-of-the-art showroom and head office has plenty of space to allow future expansion into new areas and of course enables DW Windows Ltd to showcase many of its market leading products.

The showroom has eight conservatories and orangeries, a couple of porches and dozens of windows and doors on display, allowing customers to see, touch and feel before they invest their hardearned money.

Company director Dave Walters states: *"It's been the best business decision I have ever made, opening the new place.*

"The response from everyone who visits is overwhelming as the design, planning and creation of Meadow Lane is all my own doing and it really makes me proud when people congratulate me on what I have achieved. The increase in business speaks for itself.

"I am not a businessman, I am a window fitter by trade, from Bilston and have succeeded by doing the best job I can and being as honest and reliable as I can be," Dave adds.

"I try to install this work ethic into all of my staff. I have a great team around me now and I couldn't do this without them. All I ask of my fitters is to do the job better than if they were doing it in their own home and this pays off as six out of 10 of the new jobs we do are for repeat customers or recommendations."

Success

Steve Bull, former England and Wolves legend, opened the new showroom in July last year which was a massive success and since then the phone just hasn't stopped ringing.

They are doing 40-50 quotations per week and since the open day have completed almost 500 new installations ranging from orangeries to single windows or doors. January has been the best on record with a 50 per cent increase in business on January 2015.

DW Windows Ltd are now nearing the end of their first 10 years of trading and are looking forward to the next 10 years.



DW Windows Ltd - Brand New 7600 square feet showroom over two floors

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